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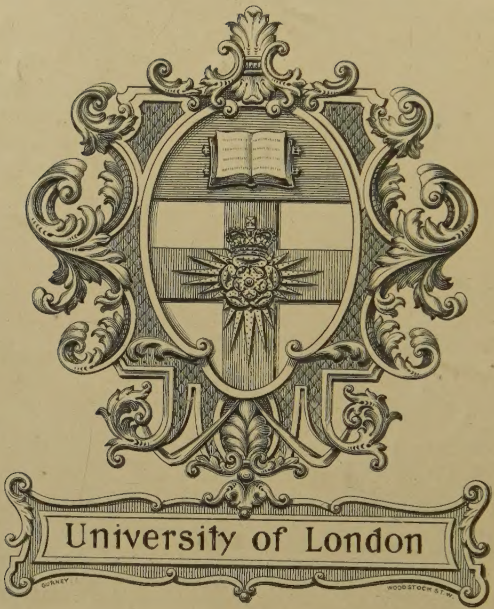
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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES.

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

6 EDWARD VII.

VOLUME CLIX.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM THE NINETEENTH DAY OF JUNE
TO THE THIRD DAY OF JULY, 1906.

EIGHTH VOLUME OF SESSION

1906.

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CHRONOLOGY OF "THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES."

THE PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY contains all that can be collected of the Legislative History of this country from the Conquest to the close of the XVIIIth Century (1803), 36 vols. The chief sources whence these Debates are derived are the Constitutional History, 24 vols. ; Sir Simonds D'Ewes' Journal ; Debates of the Commons in 1620 and 1621 ; Chandler and Timberland's Debates, 22 vols. ; Grey's Debates of the Commons, from 1667 to 1694, 10 vols. ; Almon's Debates, 24 vols. ; Debrett's Debates, 63 vols. ; The Hardwicke Papers ; Debates in Parliament by Dr. Johnson, &c., &c.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES commence with the year 1803, and the contents are set forth in the following Chronological Table :—

HISTORY.

CONQUEST to 34 GEO. II.—1066 to 1760.

Vol. 1 to 15, 1 Will. I. to 34 Geo. II.
1066-1760

REIGN OF GEORGE III.—1760 to 1820.

Vol. 15 to 35, 1 Geo. III. to 40 Geo. III.
1760-1800

(First Parliament.)

Vol. 35	41 Geo. III.	1801
— 36	42 —	1802

(Second Parliament.)

Vol. 36	42 Geo. III.	1802-3

DEBATES.

First Series.

(Second Parliament—*continued.*)

Vol. 1 & 2	44 Geo. III.	1803-4
— 3 to 5	45 —	1805
— 6 & 7	46 —	1806

(Third Parliament.)

Vol. 8 & 9	47 Geo. III.	1806-7

(Fourth Parliament.)

Vol. 9 to 11	48 Geo. III.	1807-8
— 12 — 14	49 —	1809
— 15 — 17	50 —	1810
— 18 — 20	51 —	1810-11
— 21 — 23	52 —	1812

(Fifth Parliament.)

Vol. 24 to 26	53 Geo. III.	1812-13
— 27 & 28	54 —	1813-14
— 29 to 31	55 —	1814-15
— 32 — 34	56 —	1816
— 35 & 36	57 —	1817
— 37 — 38	58 —	1818

(Sixth Parliament.)

Vol. 39 & 40	59 Geo. III.	1819
— 41	60 —	1819-20

Second Series.

REIGN OF GEORGE IV.—1820 to 1830

(Seventh Parliament.)

Vol. 1 to 3	1 Geo. IV.	1820
— 4 & 5	2 —	1821
— 6 — 7	3 —	1822
— 8 — 9	4 —	1823
— 10 — 11	5 —	1824
— 12 — 13	6 —	1825-6
— 14 — 15	7 —	1826

(Eighth Parliament.)

Vol. 16	7 Geo. IV.	1826
— 17	8 —	1827
— 18 & 19	9 —	1828
— 20 — 21	10 —	1829
— 22 to 25	11 —	1830

Third Series.

REIGN OF WILLIAM IV.—1830 to 1837.

(Ninth Parliament.)

Vol. 1 to 3... 1 Will. IV.......1830-1

(Tenth Parliament.)

Vol. 4 to 8... 2 Will. IV. 1832
— 9 — 14... 3 — 1831

(Eleventh Parliament.)

Vol. 15 to 20... 4 Will. IV....... 1833
— 21 — 25... 5 — 1834

(Twelfth Parliament.)

Vol. 26 to 30... 6 Will. IV....... 1835
— 31 — 35... 7 — 1836
— 36 — 38... 8 — 1837

REIGN OF VICTORIA—1837 to 1901.

(Thirteenth Parliament.)

Vol. 39 to 44... 1 Victoria 1838
— 45 — 50... 2 — 1839
— 51 — 55... 3 — 1840
— 56 — 58... 4 — (a) 1841

(Fourteenth Parliament.)

Vol. 59 .... 4 Victoria (b) 1841
— 60 to 65... 5 — 1842
— 66 — 71... 6 — 1843
— 72 — 76... 7 — 1844
— 77 — 82... 8 — 1845
— 83 — 88... 9 — 1846
— 89 — 94...10 — (a) 1847

(Fifteenth Parliament.)

Vol. 95 ... .10 Victoria (b) 1847
96 to 101...11 — 1848
— 102 —107...12 — 1849
— 108 —113...13 — 1850
— 114 —118...14 — 1851
— 119 —122...15 — (a) 1852

(Sixteenth Parliament.)

Vol. 123 ....15 Victoria (b) 1852
— 124 to 129...16 — 1853
— 130 —135...17 — 1854
— 136 —139...18 — 1855
— 140 —143...19 — 1856
— 144 ....20 — (a) 1857

(Seventeenth Parliament.)

Vol. 145 to 147...20 Victoria (b) 1857
— 148 —151...21 — 1858
— 152 —153...22 — (a) 1859

(Eighteenth Parliament.)

Vol. 154 to 155...22 Victoria (b) 1859
— 156 —160...23 — 1860
— 161 —164...24 — 1861
— 165 —168...25 — 1862
— 169 —172...26 — 1863
— 173 —176...27 — 1864
— 177 —180...28 — 1865

(Nineteenth Parliament.)

Vol. 181 to 184...29 Victoria...... 1866
— 185 —189...30 — 1867
— 190 —193...31 — ... 1867-8

(Twentieth Parliament.)

Vol. 194 to 198...32 Victoria ... 1868-9
— 199 —203...33 — 1870
— 204 —208...34 — 1871
— 209 —213...35 — 1872
— 214 —217...36 — 1873

(Twenty-First Parliament.)

Vol. 218 to 221...37 Victoria 1874
— 222 —226...38 — 1875
— 227 —231...39 — 1876
— 232 —236...40 — 1877
— 237 —242...41 — 1878
— 243 —249...42 — ... 1878-9
— 250 & 251...43 — (a) 1880

(Twenty-Second Parliament.)

Vol. 252 to 256...43 Victoria (b) 1880
— 257 —265...44 — 1881
— 266 —273...45 — (a) 1882
— 274 & 275...45 — (b) 1882
— 276 to 283...46 — 1883
— 284 —292...47 — 1884
— 293 —301...48 — ... 1884-5

(Twenty-Third Parliament.)

Vol. 302 to 307...49 Victoria (a) 1886

(Twenty-Fourth Parliament.)

Vol. 308 & 309...49 Victoria (b) 1886
— 310 to 321...50 — 1887
— 322 —332...51 — 1888
— 333 —340...52 — 1889
— 341 —348...53 — 1890
— 349 —356...54 — ... 1890-1

Fourth Series.

(TWENTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT—*cont.*)

Vol.	1 to 6	55	VICTORIA	1892

(TWENTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol.	7	56	VICTORIA	1892
—	8 to 21	57	—	1893-4
—	22 — 29	57	—	1894
—	30 — 35	58	—	1895

(TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol.	36	59	VICTORIA	1895
—	37 to 44	59	—	1895-6
—	45 — 52	60	—	1897
—	53 — 65	61	—	1898
—	66 — 76	62	—	1899
—	77	63	—	1899
—	78 — 83	63	—	1900
—	84	63 & 64	—	1900
—	85 — 87	64	—	1900

(TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol.	88	64	VICTORIA	1900

REIGN OF EDWARD VII.

(TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT—*cont.*

Vol.	89	1	EDWARD VII.	1901
—	90 to 100	1	—	1901
—	101	1 & 2	—	1902
—	102 to 117	2	—	1902
—	118 to 128	3	—	1903
—	129 to 140	4	—	1904
—	141 to 151	5	—	1905

(TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol.	152 to 159	6	EDWARD VII.	1906

HIS MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF STATE, ETC.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TO

VOLUME CLIX.

EIGHTH VOLUME OF SESSION, 1906.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 19TH JUNE, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath. *Page*

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: North East London Railway; Hackney Electricity.

Also the Certificate that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill: Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7).

And also the Certificates that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2); Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3); Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 1

Pontefract Corporation Bill.—Report from His Majesty's Attorney-General received, and ordered to lie on the Table 2

Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways (No. 2) Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 2

Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill.—Reported, with an Amendment 2

Ritz Hotel Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments 2

Macclesfield and District Tramways Bill.—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 10th and 29th May last discharged, and Bill committed

June 19.] *Page*

North East London Railway Bill; Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill; Lancashire Electric Power Bill; St. Pancras Electricity Bill; Tottenham and Edmonton Gas Bill; Metropolitan District Railway Bill; Kettering Water Bill; Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill; North West London Railway Bill; Bristol Corporation Bill.—Read 2ª. 3

Derby Gas Bill.—Read 2ª, and committed 3

Pontefract Corporation Bill.—Read 2ª, and committed.—The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 3

Rochester, Chatham, and Strood Gas Bill; Cheltenham Gas Bill.—Read 2ª, and committed 3

Edinburgh Corporation Bill.—Read 2ª, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 3

Metropolitan Railway Bill; South Suburban Gas Bill.—Read 2ª, and committed 3

Hackney Electricity Bill.—Read 2ª. 3

Corporation of London (Blackfriars and other Bridges) Bill.—Standing Order No. 93 considered (according to order), and dispensed with, with respect to a Petition of the Metropolitan Water Board. Leave given to present the said Petition 3

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—Brought from the Commons 3

Scottish Provident Institution Buildings Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to 3

Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill; Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill.—Committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday next .. 3

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.—Read 2ª (according to order) 3

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—Read 2ª (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday next 3

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill.—Read 2ª (according to order) 4

Local Government Provisional Order (Poor Law) Bill.—Read 2ª (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday next 4

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill (No. 128); Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill (No. 129).—Read 1ª; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners 4

June 19.] *Page*

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.—Petition in favour of denominational religious teaching in schools, of teachers in school at Colne ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table .. 4

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

WELLINGTON COLLEGE.—Report of the governors for the year ended 31st December, 1905 ; with accounts 4

DUBLIN HOSPITALS.—Forty-eighth Report of the Board of Superintendence of Dublin Hospitals, with Appendices, for the year 1905–1906 4

GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.—Report of the principal chemist upon the work of the Government Laboratory, for the year ended 31st March, 1906 ; with Appendices.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 4

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Orders made by the following councils, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within their respective city and urban district : 1. Urban District of Stretford ; 2. City of Hereford 5

INEBRIATES ACT, 1898.—Regulations, dated 15th June, 1906, made by the Secretary for Scotland in pursuance of Section 6 as read with Section 25 of the Act, respecting the transfer of inebriates from a State inebriate reformatory in Scotland to a certified inebriate reformatory.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table .. 5

THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE.

The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 5

Colonial Marriages Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^{a} (according to Order), and passed and sent to the Commons 5

Municipal Corporations Bill.—[SECOND READING.]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

The Earl of Stamford 6

Moved, " That the Bill be now read 2^{a}."—(*The Earl of Stamford.*)

The President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries (*Earl Carrington*) 7

On Question, Bill read 2^{a}, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday next.

Metropolitan Police Commission Bill.—[SECOND READING.]—Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, " That the Bill be now read 3^{a}."—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

Earl Russell 7

Amendment moved—

"To resolve, 'That, in the opinion of this House, the proposed inquiry is of too limited a character to serve any useful purpose.'"—(*Earl Russell.*)

Earl Beauchamp 12
The Marquess of Salisbury 13
The Marquess of Ripon 14

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Bill read 3^a, and passed.

House adjourned at ten minutes past Five o'clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 19TH JUNE, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways Bill [Lords], Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [Lords]; Hull Joint Dock Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 16

Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 16

Standing Orders.

Resolutions reported from the Select Committee:—

1. "That, in the case of the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with. That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

2. "That in the case of the South Wales Electrical Power Distribution Company Bill, Petition for additional Provision, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with. That the parties be permitted to insert their Additional Provision, provided that the consent in writing of three-fourths of the existing debenture stockholders and the approval of three-fourths of the existing shareholders of the Company, at a meeting specially called for the purpose, is proved before the Committee on the Bill. That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

Resolutions agreed to 16

Scottish Union and National Insurance Company Bill [Lords].—Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time 17

June 19.] *Page*

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—
Seamen's and Soldiers' False Characters Bill, without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, " An Act to confer further powers on the Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board ; to make the Mynyddislwyn Urban District Council a constituent authority ; and for other purposes." [Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [Lords].

And, also, a Bill intituled, " An Act to confer further powers upon the Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Company ; and for other purposes." [Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Bill [Lords] 17

Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [LORDS]; Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Bill [Lords].—Read the first time ; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 17

PETITIONS.

BETTING AND GAMBLING.— Petition from New Mills, for legislation ; to lie upon the Table 17

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions against ; From Allendale ; Ashwick ; Berwick-upon-Tweed ; Lucker ; Norwood ; Nottingham ; Retford ; Riddlesworth ; Sibbertoft ; and, Towcester ; to lie upon the Table 17

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).—Petitions against alteration of Law ; From Abbotsley (two) ; Abbots Ripton ; Abingdon Pigotts ; Aldham (two) ; Alwalton (two) ; Arrington ; Baldwell Ash (two) ; Barton Mills ; Bassingbourne ; Bath ; Bildeston (two) ; Bourn (two) ; Boxford (two) ; Bradford ; Bradfield St. Clare ; Brampton ; Brent Eleigh (two) ; Brockley ; Buckworth (two) ; Bures (two) ; Bury (two) ; Cambridge (three) ; Carleton ; Castle Eden ; Cavendish (two) ; Cavenham ; Caxton ; Childerley ; Chingay ; Clare ; Cockfield ; Connington (four) ; Croydon cum Clapton ; Dalham ; Dewchurch ; Diddington (two) ; Docking ; Drinkstone (two) ; East Watley ; Elsworth (two) ; Elveden (two) ; Euston ; Eynesbury (two) ; Felsham (two) ; Fen Drayton (two) ; Freckenham (two) ; Friskney ; Gedding (two) ; Girton ; Glatton (two) ; Graveley (two) ; Great Catworth (two) ; Great Cornard (two) ; Great Fakenham (two) ; Great Gidding (two) ; Great Gransden ; Great Saxham (two) ; Great Shelford (three) ; Great Staughton (two) ; Guilden Morden (two) ; Haddenham ; Haddon ; Hadleigh (two) ; Hallow ; Hamerton (two) ; Hardwicke (two) ; Hartest ; Hartford (two) ; Haslingfield ; Hatley St. George (two) ; Hawstead (two) ; Hemingford Abbots ; Hemingford Grey (two) ; Hessett ; Higham Green (two) ; Histon ; Hitcham (two) ; Holwell ; Horringer (two) ; Houghton ; Huntingdon (four) ; Icklington ; Ickworth ; Impington (two) ; Ixworth (two) ; Kimbolton (two) ; King's Ripton ; Lakenheath (two) ; Leavenheath (two) ; Leighton ; Lewisham ; Lindsey (two) ; Litlington (two) ; Little Bradley ; Little Shelford (two) ; Little Stukeley (two) ; Little Waldingfield ; Llanigon ; Longstowe (two) ; Manchester ; Mildenhall (two) ; Molesworth (two) ; Oakington and Westwick ; Offord D'Arcy (two) ; Offord Cluny ; Orwell ; Papworth St. Agnes (two) ; Pidley cum Fenton ; Pondsbridge ; Ramsey (two) ; Ramsey St. Mary (two) ; Risby (two) ; Rougham ; St. Agnes Exning ; Sapiston (two) ; Sawtry ;

June 19.] Page

Spaldwick (two); Stanground; Stapleford; Stansfield (two); Stanton; Stapleford; Stangham; Stepney; Stilton; Stradishall (two); Sudbury; Swineshead (two); Tadlow; Thorpe Morieux (two); Tilbrook; Tring with Wiltstone; Trumpington; Walsham le Willows; Warboys (two); Waresley; Water Newton; Whaddon; Whepstead; Willingham (two); Wimpole; Wiston (two); Witcham; Witchford (two); Wixol (two); Woodstone; Woolpit; Worlington; Wyton; and, Yelling (two); to lie upon the Table 18

Infant Life Protection.—Petitions for alteration of Law; From Gateshead; Hoxne; Kingston; Maidstone; and Tisbury; to lie upon the Table .. 19

Land Values Taxation, etc. (Scotland) Bill.—Petitions against; From Carmunnock; and, Rutherglen; to lie upon the Table 19

Limited Partnerships Bill [Lords].—Petition of Central Association of Bankers, in favour; to lie upon the Table 19

Municipal Powers Bill.—Petition from Cheltenham, against; to lie upon the Table 19

Pharmacy Bill.—Petition from Lincoln, against; to lie upon the Table .. 19

Poisons and Pharmacy Bill [Lords].—Petitions for alterations; From Abingdon; Bury; Camberwell; Christchurch; Clapham; Colchester; Earlestown; Edinburgh (four); Enfield (two); Epsom (two); Finsbury (Central); Hereford; Inverness; Kennington; Lanarkshire; Lincoln (three); Manchester (North West); Mid Kent or Medway; Monmouth Boroughs; Newton; North Berks; Norwood; Ravensthorpe; Ruschliffe; St. George's, Hanover Square; Sheffield (three); Stockport; Stockton-on-Tees; Sudbury; Torquay (two); Walsall (two); Wednesbury; West Bridgford; Winchester; and, York; to lie upon the Table 19

Registration of Headmasters (Order in Council, 6th March, 1902).—Petition of Thomas Allen, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 19

Vagrant Children Bill.—Petition from Uxbridge, against; to lie upon the Table 20

Workmen's Compensation Bill.—Petition from Glasgow, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 20

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Inebriates Act, 1898.—Copy presented, of Regulation, dated 15th June, 1906, made by the Secretary for Scotland in pursuance of Section 6 as read with Section 25 of The Inebriates Act, 1898, respecting the transfer of Inebriates from a State Inebriate Reformatory in Scotland to a certified Inebriate Reformatory [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 203] .. 20

Wellington College.—Copy presented, of Report of the Governors of Wellington College for the year ending 31st December, 1905, with Accounts [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 20

Experiments on Living Animals.—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 15th June; *Mr. Herbert Samuel*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed [No. 204] 20

June 19.] Page

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the City of Hereford, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, Fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the City [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 20

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Urban District Council of Stretford, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for Hairdressers' Shops within the Urban District [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 20

DUBLIN HOSPITALS.—Copy presented, of Forty-eighth Report of the Board of Superintendence, with Appendices, for the year 1905–6 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 21

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3542 to 3545 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 21

GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.—Copy presented, of Report of the Principal Chemist upon the work of the Government Laboratory for the year ended 31st March, 1906, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 21

INCLOSURES (COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER).—Return ordered, "showing (1) the number of Inclosures of common land made under the Inclosure Acts from 1845 to 1899, in the County of Gloucester; (2) list of parishes within which such lands are wholly or partly situate; (3) total acreage of such Inclosures; (4) average acreage of such Inclosures."—(*Mr. Essex*) 21

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

PAY IN DUNGANNON POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 21

BRITISH CONSUL AT CHICAGO AND THE MEAT SCANDAL.—Question, Sir William Bull (Hammersmith); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 21

UNREST IN RUSSIA.—Question, Mr. Harwood Bolton; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 22

PAYMENT TO MESSRS. STILLWELL FOR GOODS SUPPLIED TO SOUTH AFRICAN CONSTABULARY.—Question, Mr. R. Pearce (Staffordshire, Leek); Answer, Mr. Churchill 22

TRANSFER OF SECOND DIVISION CLERKS TO DUBLIN.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. McKenna 23

AMOUNTS AND RATES OF INTEREST ON SUMS ISSUED UNDER THE LABOURERS (IRELAND) ACTS.—Question, Mr. O'Mara (Kilkenny, S.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 23

AMOUNTS AND RATES OF INTEREST OF SUMS ISSUED UNDER THE GLEBE LOANS ACT, 1870.—Question, Mr. O'Mara (Kilkenny, S.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 24

ERECTION OF NATIONAL SCHOOLS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 25

June 19.] *Page*

PENSIONS FOR FOREMEN IN THE NAVAL ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT.—Question, Mr. J. W. Benn (Devonport); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 25

PAYING OUT THE GUARANTEE DEPOSITS UNDER THE ASHBOURNE ACT.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Cherry 25

ALIEN PILOTAGE CERTIFICATES.—Question, Mr. Seymour King (Hull, Central); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 26

AMERSHAM WATER COMPANY AND PRIVATE FIRE HYDRANTS.—Question, Mr. Grove (Northamptonshire, S.); Answer, Mr. J. Burns 26

FISHERY LAWS IN THE LOUGH ERNE DISTRICT.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 27

PROMOTION IN IRISH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.—Questions, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Bryce 27

DUTIES AND PAY OF ATTENDANTS IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Hazleton (Galway, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 28

IRISH AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS AND ARMY MEAT CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. P. A. McHugh (Sligo, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 29

SALE OF THE O'GRADY ESTATE.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 29

ERECTION OF PIER AT BONMAHON, COUNTY WATERFORD.—Question, Mr. Power (Waterford, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 30

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS—CASE OF LAURENCE MCEVOY.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Bryce 30

CONSTRUCTION OF A CAUSEWAY AT DUNGARVAN.—Question, Mr. O'Shee (Waterford, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 31

INLAND DRAINAGE SYSTEM IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 31

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

NAVAL OFFICERS' EYESIGHT.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) .. 32

ADMIRALTY GLASS CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Staveley Hill (Staffordshire, Kingswinford); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 33

HISTORY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.—Questions, Mr. H.R. Mansfield (Lincolnshire, Spalding) and Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddingtonshire) 33

ARMY MEAT CONTRACTS.—Questions, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.) and Lord Turnour (Sussex, Horsham); Answers, Mr. Haldane 33

DESPATCHES TO THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT.—Questions, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answers, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, (Mr Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 34

June 19.]

Page

TRANSVAAL TARIFF.—Question, Mr. Wedgwood (Newcastle-under-Lyme); Answer, Mr. Churchill 35

MISSION SERVICES IN MALTA.—Questions, Mr. Sloan (Belfast), Mr. Silcock(Somersetshire, Wells), and Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, E.); Answers, Mr. Churchill 35

OPIUM TRADE IN INDIA.—Questions, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answers, The Under-Secretary of State for India (Mr. J. Ellis, Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) .. 36

GOVERNORSHIP OF HARRAR.—Question, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool); Answer, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick) 37

TRADING STAMPS.—Questions, Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent); Answers, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 37

THE WRECK OF THE COURIER.—Question, Sir W. J. Collins (St. Pancras, W.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 37

TRANSIT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.— Question, Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) 38

POST OFFICE CONTRACTS WITH THE WESTMINSTER CONSTRUCTION COMPANY.—Questions, Mr. J.Ward (Stoke-on-Trent); Answers, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 39

GLASGOW POST OFFICE MEDICAL OFFICER.—Questions, Mr. Cleland (Glasgow, Bridgeton) and Mr. Mitchell Thomson; Answers, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. 39

EXEMPTION FROM RATING FOR SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent); Answer, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 40

HIGHER EDUCATION.—Question, Mr. Ashley; Answer, Mr. Birrell 40

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, HANDSWORTH.—Questions, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answers, Mr. Birrell 40

CHARITY COMMISSION FUND INVESTMENT.—Questions, Mr. H. R. Mansfield; Answers, Mr. Trevelyan 41

SUTHERLAND DEER FOREST.—Questions, Mr. Morton (Sutherland); Answers, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 42

IRISH MAGISTRACY—APPOINTED FEES.—Questions, Mr. Condon (Tipperary, E.); Answers, The Attorney General for Ireland (Mr. Cherry, Liverpool,Exchange) 42

MALLOW RENT APPEALS.—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.) 43

CALDBECK ESTATE, QUEEN'S COUNTY.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Bryce 44

IRISH TEACHERS.—Question, Mr. Edward Barry (Cork County, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 44

IRISH FISHERIES.—Questions, Mr. Power (Waterford, E.) and Mr. Joyce; Answers, Mr. Bryce 45

June 19.]

Page

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES IN IRISH TOWNS.—Question, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 46

IRISH LUNACY GRANT.—Questions, Mr. Cogan (Wicklow, E.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 47

SHEEP DIPPING IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Bryce 47

RUNARD PIER.—Question, Mr. Boland; Answer, Mr. Bryce 48

KERRY EVICTED TENANT.—Questions, Mr. Murphy (Kerry E.) and Mr. Flavin; Answers, Mr. Bryce 48

SALE OF LEITRIM BOGS.—Question, Mr. T. Smyth (Leitrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 49

LEITRIM EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. T. Smyth (Leitrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 50

IRISH MACKEREL EXPORTS TO CHICAGO.—Question, Mr. Boland; Answer, Mr. Bryce 50

TOWN TENANTS BILL.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 51

IRISH POOR LAW COMMISSION.—Questions, Mr. Barrie (Londonderry, W.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 51

MACROOM GUN LICENCE PROSECUTION.—Question, Mr. Sheehan (Cork County, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 52

CAVAN EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 53

INSTRUCTION IN THE IRISH LANGUAGE.—Question, Mr. Boland; Answer, Mr. Bryce 53

THE GAELIC LEAGUE AND THE TEACHING OF IRISH.—Question, Mr. Boland; Answer, Mr. Bryce 54

IRISH BOARD OF WORKS—PENSIONED OFFICIALS.—Question, Mr. Joyce; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) 55

ANCIENT NATIONAL MONUMENTS IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Hazleton (Galway, N.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 56

IRISH SIGNATURES ON POST OFFICE ORDERS.—Question, Mr. Edward Barry (Cork County, S.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 56

MR. JUSTICE GRANTHAM.—Question, Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.), Mr. Swift MacNeill, Mr. Lea, Mr. John Redmond, and Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs). 57

THE UNEMPLOYED BILL.—Questions, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil); Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 58

June 19.] *Page*

ERRORS IN VOTING

Mr. Murphy (*Kerry, W.*) 58

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES)

SIR WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing) Shipping and Manufactures, in respect of the Dogs Bill: Mr. Weir; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Leicester Harmsworth.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee, That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following fifteen Members, in respect of the Labourers (Ireland) Bill: Mr. Bryce, Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland, Mr. John Redmond, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Hugh Barrie, Mr. Long, Mr. James Campbell, Mr. William O'Brien, Mr. Clancy, Mr. O'Shee, Mr. McHugh, Mr. Kendal O'Brien, Captain Donelan, and Mr. Halpin.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee, That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following fifteen Members, in respect of the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiry (Scotland) Bill: Mr. Younger, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, Mr. Gulland, Mr. Munro Ferguson, Mr. Smeaton, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Morton, Mr. Menzies, Mr. Murray, Mr. Findlay, Mr. Laidlaw, Major Anstruther-Gray, Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. M'Kinnon Wood, and Mr. Halley Stewart.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee, That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following fifteen Members in respect of the Charitable Loan Societies (Ireland) Bill: Mr. Bryce, Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland, Mr. John Redmond, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Barrie, Mr. Walter Long, Mr. James Campbell, Mr. William O'Brien, Mr. Clancy, Mr. O'Shee, Mr. Patrick McHugh, Mr. Kendal O'Brien, Captain Donelan, and Mr. Halpin.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee, That they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Labourers (Ireland) Bill: The Lord-Advocate and Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. McKenna and Mr. Lundon.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee, That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Charitable Loan Societies (Ireland) Bill: Mr. Secretary Gladstone; and had appointed in substitution: Captain Craig.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee, That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following Member: Mr. Fetherstonhaugh.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee, That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing

June 19.] *Page*

Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, in respect of the Prevention of Corruption Bill [Lords]; Mr. Higham and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Pollard.

Reports to lie upon the Table 59

NEW BILLS.

Infectious Disease (Ireland) Bill.—"To extend The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, to districts in Ireland in which it has not been adopted," presented by Mr. Bryce; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 259] 59

Dublin Police Bill.—"To amend the Dublin Police Acts, 1837 and 1859," presented by Mr. Bryce; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 260] 60

Lunacy (Ireland) Bill.—"To correct a verbal error in Section 6 of The Lunacy (Ireland) Act, 1901," presented by Mr. Bryce; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 261] 61

Police (Superannuation) Bill.—Lords' Amendment considered, and agreed to 61

Bankers (Ireland) Act Repeal Bill.—"To repeal an Act passed in Ireland in 1759 relating to bankers," presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 262] 61

Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Bill.—"To amend the Judicature (Ireland) Acts, 1877 to 1897, and Section 6 of the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, and the law relating to bankrupts and to the constitution of certain election courts in Ireland," presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 263] 61

Post Office Sites Bill.—Ordered, That Mr. Arkwright, Mr. Sydney Buxton, and Mr. G. Greenwood be Members of the Select Committee on the Post Office Sites Bill.—(*Mr. Whiteley*) 61

Education (England and Wales) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 2:—

Lord R. Cecil (*Marylebone, E.*) 61
The President of the Board of Education (*Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.*) .. 62
Lord R. Cecil 62
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 64

Question put.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 95; Noes, 359. (Division List No. 135).

Mr. Ashley (*Lancashire, Blackpool*) 67

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, lines 5 and 6, to leave out the words 'or in any way restrict their full control of the school.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Dillon 68
Mr. Birrell 69
Sir William Anson (*Oxford University*) 70
Mr. Burdett-Coutts (*Westminster*) 70
Lord R. Cecil 71

Amendment negatived.

Mr. Rawlinson (*Cambridge University*) 71

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 6, at end insert the words 'house during the time during which it is being used by the local education authority.'"

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (*Mr. Lough, Islington, W.*) 71
Mr. Talbot (*Oxford University*) 72

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"At end, to add the words 'as a public elementary school.'"

Question, "That those words be there added," put and agreed to.

Question proposed, "That the words, as amended, be there added."

The Solicitor-General (*Sir W. Robson, South Shields*) 72
Mr. Laurence Hardy (*Kent, Ashford*) 73
Mr. Dillon 73
Mr. A. J. Balfour (*City of London*) 73
Mr. Birrell 74

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 6, at end, to add the words 'as a public elementary school.'"—(*Mr. Talbot.*)

Question—"That those words be there added"— put and agreed to.

Mr. Austin Taylor (*Liverpool, East Toxteth*) 74

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 6, at the end of the second sub-section, to add, 'And save so far as any stipulation which may be made for giving in the schools

June 19.] Page

such Christian teaching as may be given in the schools under Section 14 of the Elementary Education Act of 1870.' "

Question proposed, " That those words be there added."

Dr. Macnamara 76
Mr. A. J. Balfour 77

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Middlemore (*Birmingham, N.*) 78

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 7, to leave out Sub-section (2)."—(*Mr. Middlemore.*)

Question proposed, " That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Birrell 79
Mr. Evelyn Cecil (*Aston Manor*) 81
Sir Gilbert Parker (*Gravesend*) 80
The Solicitor-General (*Sir W. Robson, South Shields*) 84
Sir William Anson 84
Mr. Dillon 86
Mr. Rawlinson 87
Sir E. Carson (*Dublin University*) 87
Mr. Birrell 88
Mr. Nield (*Middlesex, Ealing*) 88
Mr. A. J. Balfour 90
Mr. Middlemore 90

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Lord Balcarres (*Lancashire, Chorley*) 90

Amendment proposed—

" In page 2, line 10, after the word 'section,' to insert the words 'as far as possible in accordance with the terms of the trust.' "—(*Lord Balcarres.*)

Question proposed, " That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Birrell 91
Sir E. Carson 91
Mr. Laurence Hardy 91
Mr. Birrell 92
Mr. A. J. Balfour 92
Lord R. Cecil 92
Sir W. Robson 93
Mr. Clavell Salter (*Hants, Basingstoke*) 93
Sir Francis Powell (*Wigan*) 94
Mr. Horridge (*Manchester, E.*) 95
Sir E. Carson 95

June 19.] *Page*

Question put—

The Committee divided: Ayes, 103; Noes, 414. (Division List No. 136.)

Lord R. Cecil 101

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, lines 10 to 15, to leave out the words, 'and in the time during which the local education authority have not the use of the schoolhouse under any such arrangement, to use the schoolhouses for any purpose they think fit, subject nevertheless to any statutory provisions under which the use of the schoolhouse or any room therein may be required for public purposes.'"—(*Lord R. Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Birrell 101
Mr. Rogers (*Wiltshire, Devizes*) 102
Mr. Birrell 103

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 16, to leave out Sub-section (3)."—(*Mr. Laurence Hardy.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Lough 103
Mr. Birrell 104

Question put.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 364; Noes, 77. (Division List, No. 137.)

Lord R. Cecil 109

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 17, after the word 'shall,' to insert the words 'in respect only of its conduct as a public elementary school by the local education authority, and to the extent only of such conduct.'"—(*Lord R. Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Butcher 109
Mr. Birrell 109

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Rawlinson 110

June 19.] *Page*

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 18, after the word 'deemed,' to insert the words 'during school hours.'"——(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. A. J. Balfour 110
Mr. Birrell 111
Sir E. Carson 111
Mr. A. J. Balfour 111
Lord R. Cecil 111
Mr. Dillon 112
Mr. A. J. Balfour 112
Sir Francis Powell 113
Mr. Birrell 114

Question put, and negatived.

Mr. Lough 114

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 23, at end, to add the words, '(5) Nothing in this section shall prevent the granting or requiring of facilities for special religious instruction in accordance with this Act, or prevent a local education authority, as a condition of an arrangement made under this section with respect to the use of the schoolhouse of an existing voluntary school, from giving an undertaking to give religious instruction which does not conflict with Section 14, of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, in the school.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Sir W. Anson 115

Amendment to the proposed Amendment proposed—

"In line 2, to leave out the word 'special.'"—(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed "That the word 'special' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

Dr. Macnamara 115
Lord R. Cecil 116

Amendment to proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

Sir Henry Craik (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) 116
Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald 118
Mr. Butcher 119

Lord Morpeth (Birmingham, S.) 121
Mr. Wyndham (Dover) 123
Dr. Macnamara 126
Mr. A. J. Balfour 128
Mr. Birrell 131
Colonel Williams (Dorsetshire, W.) 133

And, it being half-past Ten of the clock, the Chairman proceeded, pursuant to the Order of the House of June 18th, to put forthwith the Question, " That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 424 ; Noes, 109. (Division List No. 138.)

Motion made, and Question, " That the Chairman do report progress, and ask leave to sit again "—(*Mr. Lough*)—put, and agreed to.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow.

Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill—Order for consideration read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Bill, as amended, be now considered."

Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.) 140
Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil) 141

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the debate be adjourned."—(*Mr. MacVeagh.*)

Sir Frederick Banbury (Camberwell, Peckham) 141
Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) 141
Mr. A. J. Balfour 142
Mr. Asquith 142
Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton) 142
The Chairman of Ways and Means (Mr. Emmott, Oldham) 143
Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.) 144

Question put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed to-morrow.

Adjourned at a quarter after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 20TH JUNE, 1906.

The House met at a Quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Bill ; Haslingden Corporation Bill [Lords].—As amended, to be considered to-morrow 145

June 20.] *Page*

Great Northern Railway Bill (BY ORDER).—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [19th June], "That the Bill, as amended, be now considered."

Ordered, That the Debate be further adjourned till Monday next, at a quarter-past Eight of the clock 145

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions against; from Aberdovey; Babworth; Bosley; Brighton; Deddington; Donisthorpe; Drayton; Easthampstead (two); Elvaton (two); Everton; Great and Little Chesterford; Lacock; Paddington; and Walton-on-Trent; to lie upon the Table 145

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).—Petitions against alteration of Law; from Ball's Pond; Bartlow (two); Bottisham; Brinkley (two); Castle Camps; Castle Eden; Cheltenham; Chettisham (two); Cheveley (two); Christ Church and Upper St. Leonards; Duxford (two); Fen Ditton; Fordham (two); Hildersham (two); Hinxton (two); Horningsey; Ickleton (two); Isleham (two); Kennett (two); Linton (two); Lode (two); Middlestown (two); Pampisford; Sawston; Shermanbury; Snailwell; Soham; Stetchworth; Steyning; Stow cum Quy (two); Stuntney; Weston Colville; West Wickham; and Wicken; to lie upon the Table 145

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.—Petitions for alteration of Law; from Barton-upon-Irwell; and Driffield; to lie upon the Table 146

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].—Petitions for alteration; from Bedfordshire (South); Brighton; Cardiff, Cowbridge, and Llantrissant; Derby (West); Derbyshire (North East); Eccles (two); Eckington; Hanley; Hastings (two); Islington (North) (two); Kensington (North); Kirkby Stephen; Kirkcaldy; Luton; Merthyr Tydfil (two); Nottingham (East); Twickenham (two); Wakefield; Westmoreland (North); and Whitby; to lie upon the Table 146

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS) BILL [LORDS].—Petition from Hackney, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 146

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).—Copies presented, of Colonial Report No. 484 (Bermuda, Annual Report for 1905) and 485 (Hong Kong, Annual Report for 1905, [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 146

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1859.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 16th June, 1906, respecting the addition of years to be assigned, for pension purposes, to certain offices under the Board of Education [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 146

CIVIL LIST PENSIONS.—Copy presented, of List of all Pensions granted during the year ended 31st March, 1906, and payable under the provisions of Section 9 (1) of The Civil List Act, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 205.] 146

June 20.] *Page*

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS' FOUNDATION.—Copy presented, of Statement of the estimated Income and Expenditure of Greenwich Hospital and of Travers' Foundation for the year 1906-7 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 206.] 146

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

PROVISION FOR WIDOW AND CHILDREN OF LATE PETTY OFFICER GEORGE HOWE. —Question, Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 147

PUBLICATION OF INSPECTOR'S REPORT ON THE CASE OF M'GLONE.—Question, Mr. Ginnell (Westmeath, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 147

PUBLICATION OF INFORMATION BY THE IRISH BOARD OF INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION. —Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 148

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS—CLAIM OF MARY ANNE MORTLAND.—Question, Mr. McVeigh (Donegal, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 149

CASE OF JOHN RIORDAN.—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 194

REPORT OF THE IRISH CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION.—Question, Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 150

SALE OF THE ROBERTS ESTATE, COUNTY LONGFORD.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 150

REFUSAL OF GUN LICENCE TO MR. DANIEL CASEY.—Question, Mr. Power (Waterford, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 151

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY SERGEANTS IN BELFAST WITH OVER THIRTY YEARS' SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 152

SERGEANT LONG, ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.—Question, Mr. McKillop (Armagh, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 152

RELIGIOUS PERSUASION OF ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY SERGEANT STATIONED AT PONTYPASS.—Question, Mr. McKillop; Answer, Mr. Bryce 152

PRESSURE FOR PAYMENT OF RENTS ON THE FAULKNER ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Hammond (Carlow); Answer, Mr. Bryce 153

RESIDENCE IN PRECINCTS OF WORKHOUSE OF FAMILY OF THE MASTER.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 153

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION OF CATHOLIC CHILDREN IN ARMAGH WORKHOUSE.— Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Bryce 154

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS OF COUNTY ARMAGH POLICE FORCE.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Bryce 154

PORTUGUESE KAFFIRS IN THE WITWATERSRAND MINES.—Question, Mr. Nield (Middlesex, Ealing); Answer, Mr. Churchill 155

CHINESE TRANSLATION OF THE REPARTRIATION PROCLAMATION.—Question, Mr. Verney (Buckinghamshire, N.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 156

June 20.] Page

WAGES IN ROYAL DOCKYARDS.—Question, Mr. J. Williams Benn (Devonport); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 156

ARMING OF "COUNTY" CLASS OF CRUISERS.—Question, Mr. Nield; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 156

CHATHAM DOCKYARD DISCHARGES.—Question, Mr. E. H. Lamb (Rochester); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 157

CHATHAM DOCKYARD AND THE REPAIR OF H.M.S. "MONTAGU."—Question, Mr. E. H. Lamb; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 157

THE HYDE PARK FOUNTAIN.—Question, Mr. Lloyd Morgan (Carmarthenshire, W.); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 157

PROCEDURE COMMITTEE—DATE OF NEXT MEETING.—Question, Mr. Blake (Longford, S.); Answer, Sir Henry Fowler 158

MAINTENANCE AND WORK OF THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.—Question, Mr. Laidlaw (Renfrewshire, S.); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 158

STAFF OF THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.—Question, Mr. Laidlaw; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 158

CHECKING OF THE BOARD OF TRADE CUSTOMS RETURNS.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Mr. McKenna 159

INCREASED CHARGE FOR ORDNANCE MAPS.—Question, Mr. Lloyd Morgan; Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 160

BRITISH FORESTRY.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 160

PAYMENT OF SCHOOL GRANTS.—Question, Sir Carne Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford); Answer, Mr. Birrell 162

NATIONAL GALLERY AND THE CHANTREY BEQUEST FUND.—Question, Mr. Middlemore (Birmingham, N.); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. 163

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

GERMAN NAVAL PROGRAMME.—Question, Mr. Beauchamp (Suffolk, Lowestoft); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) 163

ADMIRALTY CONTRACTS AND TRADES UNION WAGES.—Question, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 164

GUN PRACTICE IN THE THAMES ESTUARY.— Question, Mr. Whitehead (Essex, S.E.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. Buchanan, Perthshire, E.) 164

SHOEBURY BATTERY GUN PRACTICE. — Questions, Mr. Whitehead; Answers, Mr. Buchanan 165

IRELAND AND ARMY MEAT CONTRACTS.— Question, Mr. Edward Barry (Cork S.); Answer, Mr. Buchanan 165

June 20.] *Page*

THE UNREST IN BENGAL.—Question, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Morley, Montrose Burghs) 166

RAILWAY RATES FROM DELAGOA BAY.—Question, Mr. O'Grady; Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.)

REPATRIATION PROCLAMATION.—Questions, Mr. Gooch (Bath), Mr. Verney, (Buckinghamshire, N.) and Mr. Bottomley (Hackney, S.); Answers, Mr. Churchill 167

ZULU PRISONERS AND THE KIMBERLEY MINES.—Questions, Mr. Byles (Salford, N.), Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.), Mr. J. Ward, Stoke-on-Trent); Answers, Mr. Churchill 168

THE NATIVE REBELLION IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Byles; Answer, Mr. Churchill 168

MARTIAL LAW IN NATAL.—Questions, Mr. Byles; Answers, Mr. Churchill .. 169

THE MACEDONIAN BUDGET.—Question, Mr. Lynch (Yorkshire, W.R. Ripon); Answer, The Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Runciman for Sir Edward Grey) 176

EXPERIMENTS ON LIVING ANIMALS.—Question, Mr. Smeaton (Stirlingshire); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 170

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION INSURANCES.—Question, Mr. Wedgewood (Newcastle-under-Lyne); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 170

PRUSSIAN CIGARETTE MAKERS.—Question, Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 171

CONVICTS' LICENCES.—Question, Mr. Pikersgill; Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. 171

MERCHANDISE MARKS.—Questions, Mr. Seddon and Mr. Pane (Northampton); Answers, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Burghs) 172

GLAMORGAN EDUCATION AUTHORITY.—Question, Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley); Answer, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Birrell, Bristol) 173

GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS TO THE EDUCATION BILL—CLAUSE 4.—Questions, Sir William Anson (Oxford University) and Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London); Answers, Mr. Birrell 173

SHEEP SCAB IN NORTHUMBERLAND.—Question, Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R.); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 174

SHEEP DIPPING (NORTH OF ENGLAND) ORDER.—Question, Mr. Trevelyan; Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 174

IRISH TENANT RIGHT.—Questions, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Cherry, Liverpool) 175

DOG LICENCES.—Question, Mr. McKillop (Armagh, S.); Answer, Mr. Cherry .. 175

June 20.] *Page*

IRISH LAND PURCHASE—CAPPALOUGHLIN ESTATE, QUEEN'S COUNTY.—Questions Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory) and Mr. Kilbride (Kildare, S.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.) .. 176

LONGFORD ESTATE, MALLOW.—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork County, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 771

MALLOW EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. Flynn; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 178

IRISH INTERMEDIATE BOARD OF EDUCATION RULES.—Questions, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry), Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.), Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.), and Mr. John Redmond (Waterford); Answer, Mr. Bryce 178

IRISH TENANT'S OCCUPATION INTEREST.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 182

HEADFORT EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 184

IRISH TEACHERS' CAPITATION GRANTS.—Question, Mr. Murphy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 184

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 184

IRISH LAND CLERKS.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Bryce 185

BALLINA EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. Halpin (Clare, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 186

DANMANWAY ESTATE—COOLSNAGTIG EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. Edward Barry (Cork County); Answer, Mr. Bryce 186

IRISH LAND COMMISSION STAFF.—Questions, Mr. Sloan and Mr. Delany; Answer, Mr. Bryce 186

BANDON ESTATE EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr. Edward Barry; Answer, Mr. Bryce 187

DUNMANWAY COTTAGE SCHEME.—Question, Mr. Sheehan (Cork County, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 188

BEVAN ESTATE, COUNTY LIMERICK.—Question, Mr. Lundon (Limerick, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce.. 188

MAJOR MCBRIDE.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Bryce 189

ROSSMORE EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick); Answer, Mr. Bryce 189

NANTENAN EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 190

RAHEEN EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 190

KNIGHT OF GLEN'S ESTATE, LIMERICK.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 191

June 20.]

Page

COUNTY LIMERICK EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. O'Shaughnessy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 191

IRISH LAND CHANCELLOR'S SALARY.—Question, Mr. Fullerton (Cumberland, Egremont); Answer, Mr. Bryce 191

EMIGRATION FROM IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Dolan (Leitrim, N.); Answer Mr. Bryce 192

LABOURERS ACTS LOANS—RATES OF INTEREST IN THE NORTH DUBLIN DISTRICT. —Question, Mr. M. Clancy (Dublin County), Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.), and Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 192

IRISH TRADE STATISTICS.—Questions, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell and Mr. Flynn; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 193

ALLEGED DISORDERS IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—Question, Mr. Fullerton; Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) 194

THE UNEMPLOYED BILL.—Question, Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green), and Mr. Keir Hardie; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 195

COLONIAL VOTE.—Question, Mr. A. E. W. Mason (Coventry), and Sir J. Dickson-Poynder (Wiltshire, Chippenham); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 195

SCOTTISH ESTIMATES.—Question, Mr. Smeaton (Stirlingshire); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 196

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW, &C.—Ordered, That the Standing Committee on Law have leave to sit To-morrow during the sitting of the House for the consideration of the Workmen's Compensation Bill.—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel*) 196

DOGS BILL.—Reported from the Standing Committee on Trade, &c., with Amendments.

Ordered, That the Report do lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 207.]

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee be printed. [No. 207.]

Ordered, That the Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), be taken into consideration To-morrow, and be printed. [Bill 264.] 196

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect to the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiry (Scotland) Bill:—Mr. M'Kinnon Wood; and had appointed in substitution, Mr. Cleland.

Report to lie upon the Table 196

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.—Fifth Report brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 197

Page

June 20.]

DUBLIN POLICE BILL.—Ordered, That the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills do examine the Dublin Police Bill with respect to compliance with the Standing Orders relative to Private Bills.—(*Mr. Bryce*) 197

NEW BILLS.

Strangers in Blood Interpretation Bill—" To interpret the meaning of the term stranger in blood under the Legacy and Succession Duty Acts," presented by Sir William Bull ; to be read a second time upon Monday, July 9th, and to be printed. [Bill 265.] 197

Education (England and Wales) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 3 :—

Mr. Pike Pease (*Darlington*) 197

Amendment proposed—

" In page 2, line 24, to leave out the word ' if.' "—(*Mr. Pike Pease.*)

Question proposed, " That the word ' if ' stand part of the clause."

The President of the Board of Education (*Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.*) .. 199
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 202
Mr. Butcher (*Cambridge University*) 203
The Solicitor-General (*Mr. Robson, South Shields*) 206
Mr. Walter Long (*Dublin, S.*) 207
Mr. Birrell 208
Lord R. Cecil (*Marylebone, E.*) 210
Mr. Channing (*Northamptonshire, E.*) 211
Lord Balcarres (*Lancashire, Chorley*) 212
Mr. Samuel Roberts (*Sheffield, Ecclesall*) 213
Mr. Samuel Evans (*Glamorganshire, Mid.*) 213
Sir Gilbert Parker (*Gravesend*) 214
Mr. Harwood (*Bolton*) 215
Mr. Herbert (*Buckinghamshire, Wycombe*) 215
Mr. A. J. Balfour 216
Mr. Leif Jones (*Westmoreland, Appleby*) 218
Mr. Birrell 219

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 387 ; Noes, 99. (Division List No. 139.)

Mr. Massie (*Wiltshire, Cricklade*) 223

Amendment proposed—

" In page 2, line 25, to leave out the words ' of some special character,' and insert the words ' in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed.' "—(*Mr. Massie.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Mr. Lough, Islington, W.) .. 225
Mr. Austen Taylor (Liverpool, East Toxteth) .. 226
Lord R. Cecil .. 227
Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.) .. 227
Sir E. Carson (Dublin University) .. 227
Sir W. Robson .. 228

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir E. Carson .. 228

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 25, after the word 'character' insert the words 'in accordance with the trust, if any, on which the school has been previously held, and.'"—(*Sir E. Carson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Laurence Hardy (Kent, Ashford) .. 229
Mr. Perks (Lancashire, Louth) .. 229
Mr. Austin Taylor .. 230
Sir W. Robson .. 230
Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 231
Lord R. Cecil .. 232
Mr. J. W. Wilson (Worcestershire, N.) .. 233
Mr. Stuart Wortley (Sheffield, Hallam) .. 233
Sir E. Carson .. 233
Sir W. Robson .. 234
Mr. Harwood .. 236

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 94 ; Noes, 388. (Division List No. 140.)

Lord R. Cecil .. 239

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 31, after the word 'schoolhouse,' to insert the words 'or if the parents of fifteen children attending a transferred voluntary school desire such facilities.'"—(*Lord R. Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Masterman (West Ham, N.) .. 242
Mr. Lough .. 243
Sir William Anson .. 244
Mr. Verney (Bucks, N.) .. 245
Mr. Laurence Hardy .. 245
Dr. Macnamara .. 245
Mr. Wyndham (Dover) .. 246

June 20.] Page

Mr. Samuel Evans .. 248
Earl Percy (Kensington, S.) .. 250
Mr. Rawlinson (Cambridge University) .. 251
Mr. Birrell .. 252
Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 254
Sir W. Robson .. 257
Lord Balcarres .. 259
Mr. Nussey (Pontefract) .. 260
Colonel Williams (Dorsetshire, W.) .. 261
Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.) .. 264
Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent) .. 264
Mr. Nield (Middlesex, Ealing) .. 265
Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs) .. 266
Mr. Birrell .. 268

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 78 ; Noes, 285. (Division List No. 141.)

Mr. J. W. Wilson .. 271

Amendment proposed—

> " In page 2, line 34, to leave out from the word ' receive,' to the end of the Sub-section, and insert the words ' such instruction.' "—(*Mr. J. W. Wilson.*)

Question proposed, " That the words ' that instruction ' stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Birrell .. 273
Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 274
Mr. Perks (Lincolnshire, Louth) .. 277
Mr. Birrell .. 278
Mr. Stuart Wortley .. 280
Mr. Soares (Devonshire, Barnstaple) .. 281
Mr. Birrell .. 282
Sir W. Robson .. 283
Lord R. Cecil .. 283
Mr. Leif Jones .. 284
Mr. Birrell .. 284
Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 284

And, it being half-past Ten of the Clock, the Chairman proceeded, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 18th June to put forthwith the Question on the Amendment already proposed from the Chair.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 352 ; Noes, 159. (Division List No. 142.)

Motion made, and Question put, " That the Chairman do report Progress ; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. George Whiteley.*)

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 417 ; Noes, 101. (Division List No. 143.)

Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Monday next.

Limited Partnerships Bill [Lords].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1 :—

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow 295

Summary Jurisdiction (Children) Bill.—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn 295

Public Trustee [Expenses].—Committee to consider of authorising the charge on the Consolidated Fund of such sums as may be required to make good any liabilities incurred by the public trustee, or his officers, appointed under any Act of the present session to provide for the appointment of a public trustee, and of authorising the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the salaries or remuneration of the public trustee and his officers, and of other expenses incurred by them in pursuance of such Act (King's Recommendation signified), To-morrow.—(*Mr. George Whiteley.*) 295

Labourers (Ireland) [Advances].—Committee to consider of authorising the repayment to the Ireland Development Grant, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of such sums as may be advanced in any financial year out of that fund, in pursuance of any Act of the present session to amend the law relating to labourers in Ireland, and to make provision with respect to the application of portion of the Ireland Development Grant (King's Recommendation signified), To-morrow.—(*Mr. George Whiteley.*) 296

Adjourned at nine minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 21st JUNE, 1906.

The Lord Wigan (*E. Crawford*) took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with : Buckhaven, Methill, Innerleven Burgh Extension.

The same was ordered to lie on the Table 297

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [h.l.].—Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to 297

Dowlais Gas Bill.—Reported, with Amendments 297

June 21.]

Page

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill—Committed 297

Lancashire Electric Power Bill.—Committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 297

St. Pancras Electricity Bill; Tottenham and Edmonton Gas Bill; Metropolitan District Railway Bill.—Committed 297

Kettering Water Bill.—Committed for Monday next 297

Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill; North West London Railway Bill; Bristol Corporation Bill. Committed: The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 297

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill.—Committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 297

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill—Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. Committed to a Committee of the Whole House to-morrow 297

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COLONIES: ANNUAL.

No. 484. Bermuda (Report for 1905).
No. 485. Hong Kong (Report for 1905) 298

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.)

No. 3642. China (Chinkiang).
No. 3643. United States (Hawaii).
No. 3644. Spain (Malaga).
No. 3645. France (Society Islands).
No. 3646. Japan (North Formosa).
No. 3647. Italy (Lombardy).

Presented (by Command) and ordered to lie on the Table 298

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS FOUNDATION.—Statement of the estimated income and expenditure of Greenwich Hospital and of Travers' Foundation, for the year 1906–07 298

CIVIL LIST PENSIONS.—List of all pensions granted during the year ended March 31st, 1906, and payable under the provisions of Section 9 (1) of the Civil List Act, 1901 298

SUPERANNUATION ACT.—Treasury Minute, dated June 16th, 1906, respecting the addition of years to be assigned for pensions purposes to certain offices under the Board of Education 298

FINANCE.—Finance accounts of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, for the financial year ended March 31st, 1906 298

June 21.] *Page*

UNEMPLOYED WORKMEN ACT, 1905.—Regulations made by the Local Government Board under the Act, as to the form of financial statement of distress committees having the powers of a central body established under the Act.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 298

EDUCATION.—Petitions in favour of maintenance of existing religious education in Church of England schools :—Of ratepayers in Hardwicke——Ten Drayton. Of parents of children attending school at Bassingbourne.

Read, and ordered to lie on the Table 299

Police (Superannuation) Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to 299

Finance Bill. [SECOND READING.]—Order of the day for Second Reading read.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2ª.—(*The Marquess of Ripon.*)

Viscount St. Aldwyn 299
Lord Welby 307
Viscount Goschen 311
Lord Joicey 312
The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 315

On Question, Bill read 2ª; Standing Order No. XXXIX. dispensed with. Bill read 3ª, and passed.

Reserve Forces Bill.—Reports of Amendments received.

Amendments moved—

"In page 1, line 7, after the word 'any' to insert the words: 'British Protectorate or in any'; in line 9, after 'any' to insert the words 'British Protectorate or in any'; and in lines 10 and 11, to leave out the words 'a self-governing colony' and to insert the words 'in a colony possessing responsible government.'"—(*The Earl of Portsmouth.*)

On Question, Amendments agreed to. Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow; and to be printed as amended. [No. 130.] 320

Indian Railways Act Amendment Bill. [SECOND READING.]—Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

Earl Beauchamp 320

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2ª.—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

On Question, Bill read 2ª, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

June 21.] *Page*

GREENWICH OBSERVATORY.

Lord Ellenborough 320
The First Lord of the Admiralty (Lord Tweedmouth) 326
Viscount Goschen 328
The Earl of Crawford 329
Lord Kelvin 333
Earl Cawdor 335
Lord Tweedmouth 336

JUSTICES AND THE RATES

Lord Barnard 337
Earl Carrington 338

House adjourned at a quarter past Seven o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 21ST JUNE, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in respect of the following Bill, introduced pursuant to the provisions of the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, and which the Chairman of Ways and Means had directed to originate in the House of Lords, they have certified that the Standing Orders have been complied with, viz. :—Buckhaven Methil and Innerleven Burgh Extension Bill 339

Southampton Gas Bill.—Lords Amendment considered, and agreed to .. 339

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill.—Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to 339

Maryport Harbour Bill. [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 339

Poole Corporation Water Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 339

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Bill. (BY ORDER); Haslingden Corporation Bill [Lords] (by Order). As amended, considered; to be read the third time 339

West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER).—Read a second time, and committed 339

Water Provisional Order Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow 339

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No 1) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow 339

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.— Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow 340

St. John's (Westminster) Improvement Bill; Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies Bill [Lords]; Hull and Barnsley Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill [Lords]; Trent Navigation Companies Bill [Lords]; Sheffield District Railway Bill [Lords]; Cambrian Railways Bill [Lords]; Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [Lords]. Reported, with an Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 340

Barry Railway Bill [Lords]. —Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 340

Rugby Lower School Bill [Lords].—Reported, without Amendment: Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. Bill to be read the third time.. 340

Crellin's Patents Bill [Lords].—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time. 340

London Outer Circle Railway Bill.—Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 340

Message from the Lords.—They have agreed to Amendments to—National Assurance Company of Ireland and Yorkshire Fire and Life Insurance Company Bill [Lords]. xouth Lancashire Tramways (Extnesion of Time) Bill [Lords].

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [Lords], without Amendment .. 340

PETITIONS.

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Petitions against: From Adderbury; Alwick; Headon: Leicester; Nottingham; Newcastle-on-Tyne; Spennithorne; Stannington; Tuxtord; and, Weeley; to lie upon the Table .. 340

Education (England and Wales) Bill (Religious Teaching).—Petitions against alteration of Law: From Cheetham Hill; Hulme; and, St. Austell; to lie upon the Table 341

Infant Life Protection.—Petition from York, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 341

Open Spaces Bill.—Petition from Bermondsey, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 341

Pharmacy Bill.—Petition from Newark, against; to lie upon the Table .. 341

June 21.] Page

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].—Petitions for alteration: From Cambridge; Finsbury; Greenwich (two); Hull; Keswick; Leigh; Liverpool (two); Mid Cumberland; Pudsey (two); South Manchester; Spalding (two); Strand and District (two); Wells; West Bromwich; and, Weston-super-Mare; to lie upon the Table 341

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

UNEMPLOYED WORKMEN ACT, 1905.—Copy presented, of Regulations made by the Local Government Board under the Act as to the Form of Financial Statement of Distress Committees having the powers of a Central Body established under the Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 341

FINANCE ACCOUNTS.—Copy presented, of Finance Accounts of the United Kingdom for the year ended 31st March 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 208.] 341

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

PUBLICATION OF REPORT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (SCOTLAND).—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 341

APPOINTMENTS AS POSTMEN RESERVED FOR EX-TELEGRAPH MESSENGERS.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 342

PIGEON SHOOTING IN EGYPT.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 342

DISTURBANCE BY CHINESE COOLIES AT THE NOURSE MINES.—Question, Mr. Mond (Chester); Answer, Mr. Churchill 343

OUTRAGES BY CHINESE COOLIES.—Question, Mr. Mond; Answer, Mr. Churchill 343

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMISSION FOR THE CONTROL OF THE CHINESE.—Question, Mr. Mond; Answer, Mr. Churchill 343

LIGHTING AND DREDGING OF THE THAMES ESTUARY.—Question, Mr. J. D. White (Dumbartonshire); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 344

DANGER TO SHIPPING BY ROCKS BETWEEN IRELAND'S EYE AND HOWTH HARBOUR.—Question, Mr. Clancy (Dublin County, N.); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 344

NAVAL TRAINING—ARTISAN AND ARTIFICERS BRANCHES.—Question, Mr. J. Williams Benn (Devonport); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 345

TRANSFER OF POSTAL CLERKS FROM LONDON TO EDINBURGH AND DUBLIN—REDUCTION OF SALARY.—Question, Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 345

ORDNANCE SURVEY STAFF—7TH DIVISION (CARLISLE).—Question, Mr. J. M. Robertson (Northumberland, Tyneside); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey .. 346

OFFENCES UNDER THE FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1893.—Question, Mr. Alexander Cross (Glasgow, Camlachie); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 347

June 21.] *Page*

SUGGESTED ISSUE OF LARGE SCALE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAPS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.—Question, Mr. G. Greenwood (Peterborough); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 347

POSITION OF CLERKS TO SURVEYORS OF TAXES.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 348

RATEABLE VALUE AND REPRESENTATION OF MANCHESTER.—Question, Mr. H. J. Tennant (Berwickshire); Answer, Mr. John Burns 348

RELIGIOUS PROCESSIONS IN EASTERN BENGAL.—Question, Sir H. Cotton (Birmingham); Answer, Mr. Morley 349

PUBLICITY OF INDIAN COURTS OF JUSTICE.—Question, Sir H. Cotton; Answer, Mr. Morley 350

RE-VALUATION OF IRELAND—METHODS OF ASSESSING.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. McKenna 350

SUPERINTENDENT REGISTRARS AND LISTS OF DEATHS.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Bryce 351

INTERFERENCE OF LADY GUARDIAN WITH DISCIPLINE OF LONDONDERRY UNION.—Question, Marquess of Hamilton (Londonderry); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 352

NELSON BEEF COMPANY AND ARMY SUPPLIES.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Haldane 352

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL FOR HENRY HULME, LATE CHESHIRE REGIMENT.—Question, Mr. R. Pearce (Staffordshire, Leek); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. 353

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF REPORT OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL DISORDERS COMMISSION.—Question, Dr. Hazel (West Bromwich); Answer, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman 354

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

MILITIA OFFICER'S ALLOWANCES.—Question, Sir Robert Hobart (Hampshire, New Forest); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddingtonshire) 354

1ST BATTALION ROYAL WEST KENT REGIMENT—MASTER TAILOR.—Questions, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answers, Mr. Haldane 354

AMMUNITION FOR VOLUNTEERS.—Question, Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye); Answer, Mr. Haldane 355

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS FAMILIES ASSOCIATION.—Questions, Mr. Morton; Answers, Mr. Haldane 355

THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.—Question, Mr. Morton; Answer, Mr. Haldane .. 356

MEAT RATIONS AT BALLYKINLAR CAMP.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 356

June 21.] *Page*

TREATMENT OF ZULU REBELS.—Questions, Mr. Jowett (Bradford, W.), Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.), Mr. Byles (Salford, N.); Answers, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.) 357

CHINESE CRIME IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent); Answer, Mr. Churchill 357

THE REPATRIATION PROCLAMATION.—Questions, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answers, Mr. Churchill 358

SWADESHI MOVEMENT IN BENGAL.—Question, Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham, E.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. John Morley, Montrose Burghs) 359

MASSACRES OF JEWS IN RUSSIA.—Question, Mr. Thorne (West Ham, S.); Answer, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey) Northumberland, Berwick 360

ATTACK ON BRITISH OFFICERS IN EGYPT.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 360

TAX ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION.—Questions, Mr. Sears (Cheltenham); Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) .. 361

EJECTMENT ORDERS.—Questions, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.), and Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green); Answers, The Secretary of State for Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 363

METROPOLITAN POLICE HOLIDAYS.—Question, Mr. Seaverns (Lambeth, Brixton); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 364

ALIEN IMMIGRANTS.—Question, Mr. Fell (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 364

WORKSHOPS AS SLEEPING APARTMENTS.—Question, Mr. Arthur Henderson (Durham, Barnard Castle); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 365

ALIENS IN THE EAST END OF LONDON.—Question, Mr. Fell; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 365

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE DISTURBANCE.—Questions, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil), Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W. R., Elland); Answers, Mr. Gladstone 366

SCATHWAITE WATERWORKS ACCIDENT.—Question, Mr. J. Ward; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 367

PATENT SPECIFICATIONS.—Question, Mr. J. D. White (Dumbartonshire); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Burghs) 368

INDIAN MAIL SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Laidlaw (Renfrewshire); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) .. 369

REGISTER OF TEACHERS.—Question, Sir William Anson (Oxford University); Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Mr. Lough, Islington, W.) 369

June 21.] *Page*

WOMEN ON EDUCATION AUTHORITIES.—Questions, Mr. Leif Jones (Westmoreland, Appleby); Answer, Mr. Lough 369

WAGES ON GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. O'Grady; Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rosendale) .. 370

THE VENTILATION OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Mr. Harcourt 371

MORNINGSIDE ASYLUM.—Questions, Mr. Stewart (Greenock); Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 371

SCOTTISH TEACHERS' PENSIONS.—Questions, Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire); Answers, Mr. Sinclair 372

IRISH LAND PURCHASE—JUDICIAL AGREEMENTS.—Questions, Mr. Ginnell (Westmeath, N.); Mr. Kilbride (Kildare, S.); Answers, Mr. Bryce .. 373

BARROW (FENIT) TENANTS' GRIEVANCES.—Questions, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 374

LOANS FOR ARTISANS' DWELLINGS.—Questions, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell; Answers, Mr. Bryce 374

AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL SCHEMES.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 375

UNTENANTED LANDS.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 376

TINNED MEATS IN IRISH PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.—Questions, Mr. Halpin (Clare, W.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 376

DRUMTULLAGH NATIONAL SCHOOL.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 377

MANCHESTER ESTATE EVICTED ESTATE.—Questions, Mr. Sloan; Answers, Mr. Bryce 377

ROAD ACCOMMODATION AT BOYLE.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 378

EARL FITZWILLIAM'S TENANTS.—Questions, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 379

MASSY ESTATE, MACROOM.—Question, Mr. Sheehan (Cork County, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 380

LARGYDONNELL LAND CASE.—Question, Mr. Dolan (Leitrim, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 380

LABOURERS' ACTS LOANS.—Question, Mr. Ffrench (Wexford, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 381

INSPECTORS OF LUNATICS REPORTS.—Question, Mr. Clancy (Dublin County, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 381

Killavallen (Cork) Schoolhouse.—Questions, Mr. William Abraham (Cork County, N.E.), Mr. Dillon; Answers, Mr. Bryce 382

Cornamona School Teacher.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 383

Labourers' Cottage Schemes.—Question, Mr. Sheehan; Answer, Mr. Bryce 383

Irish Trade Statistics.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 384

Rosslare Harbour.—Questions, Mr. Ffrench, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answers, Mr. Lloyd-George 385

Killucan Potsmaster.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 385

The Crofters Acts.—Question, Mr. Morton (Sutherland); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 386

Bodmin Election Petition.—Question, Sir G. Kekewich (Exeter); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 387

Business of the House.—Question, Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 387

Standing Committees (Chairmen's Panel).—Mr. Stuart-Wortley reported from the Chairmen's Panel; That they had appointed Mr. Wason to act as Chairman of the Standing Committee for the consideration of Bills relating to Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures, in place of Mr. Laurence Hardy; and had appointed Mr. Brynmor Jones to act as Chairman of the Standing Committee for the consideration of Bills relating to Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in place of Sir James Woodhouse, at the conclusion of the Workmen's Compensation Bill.

Report to lie upon the Table 388

Street Betting Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 266] 388

Message from the Lords.—That they have agreed to—Finance Bill; Metropolitan Police (Commission) Bill, without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to declare the Law with respect to a marriage between a man and his deceased wife's sister domiciled in parts of the British possessions where such a marriage is legal." [Colonial Marriages Bill [Lords] 388

Supply [13th Allotted Day].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid.) in the Chair.]

Civil Services and Revenue Departments Estimates, 1906–7.

June 21.] Page

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £10,496,741, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on March 31st, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Post Office, including Telegraphs."

The Postmaster General (*Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) .. 389
Mr. Henniker Heaton (*Canterbury*) 398
Mr. Lupton (*Lincolnshire, Sleaford*) 402
Mr. Walter Long (*Dublin, S.*) 403
Mr. Seddon (*Lancashire, Newton*) 405
Sir Gilbert Parker (*Gravesend*) 406
Mr. Pickersgill (*Bethnal Green, S. W.*). 410

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £10,496,641, be granted for the said service."—*Mr. Pickersgill.*

Lord Valentia (*Oxford*) 411
Mr. T. W. Russell (*Tyrone, S.*) 413
Colonel Lockwood (*Essex, Epping*) 414
Mr. Cathcart Wason (*Orkney and Shetland*) 416
Sir A. Acland Hood (*Somersetshire, Wellington*) 418
Mr. Morton (*Sutherlandshire*) 419
Sir Frederick Banbury (*Camberwell, Peckham*) 422
Mr. Sydney Buxton 425
Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (*Shropshire, Newport*) 429
Mr. Ainsworth (*Argyllshire*) 430
Mr. Charles Devlin (*Galway*) 430
Mr. Rowlands (*Kent, Dartford*) 433

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. William Rutherford (*Liverpool, West Derby*) 433

And, it being a quarter-past Eight of the clock, and there being Private Business set down, by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means, under Standing Order No. 8, further proceeding was postponed without Question put.

London County Council (Money) Bill [BY ORDER].—Order for consideration, as amended, read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill, as amended, be now considered."

Mr. Rawlinson (*Cambridge University*) 434
Mr. R. Duncan (*Lanarkshire, Govan*) 436

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Wood (*Glasgow, St. Rollox*) 437
Sir Frederick Banbury (*City of London*) 442
Mr. Dickinson (*St. Pancras, N.*) 444
Mr. Bridgeman (*Shropshire, Oswestry*) 445
Mr. Baker (*Finsbury, E.*) 447
Mr. Victor Cavendish (*Derbyshire, W.*) 448
Mr. Straus (*Tower Hamlets, Mile End*) 448

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question put, and agreed to, Bill, as amended, considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed.

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1906–7.

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £10, 426,741, be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on March 31st, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Post Office, including Telegraphs."

Mr. J. Ward (*Stoke-upon-Trent*) 450
Mr. Silcock (*Somersetshire, Wells*) 450
Mr. Bridgeman (*Shropshire, Oswestry*) 451
Mr. Munro Ferguson (*Leith Burghs*) 452
Mr. Dalziel (*Kirkcaldy Burghs*) 452
Mr. Fell (*Great Yarmouth*) 453
Sir W. J. Collins (*St. Pancras, N.*) 453
Mr. E. H. Lamb (*Rochester*) 454
Mr. C. E. Price (*Edinburgh Central*) 454
Sir Frederick Banbury 455
Mr. Rees (*Montgomery Boroughs*) 455
Mr. W. T. Wilson (*Lancashire, Westhoughton*) 456
Mr. Sydney Buxton, ... 456
Mr. Hicks Beach (*Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury*) 457
Mr. Claude Hay (*Shoreditch, Hoxton*) 458
Mr. Sydney Buxton 459
Mr. Meysey-Thompson (*Staffordshire, Handsworth*) 459
Captain Craig (*Down, E.*) 460

Question, put, and agreed to.

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE [EXPENSES].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it is expedient to authorise the charge on the Consolidated Fund of such sums as may be required to make good any liabilities incurred by the Public Trustee, or his officers, appointed under any Act of the present session to provide for the appointment of a Public Trustee, and to authorise the payment out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the salaries or remuneration of the Public Trustee and his officers, and of other Expenses incurred by them in pursuance of such Act."—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Monday next.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House be now adjourned."

THE SENTENCE ON MISS BILLINGTON.

Mr. Keir Hardie (*Merthyr Tydvil*) 461
The Secretary of State for the Home Department (*Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.*) 462
Mr. Byles (*Salford, N.*) 462
Mr. Maddison (*Burnley*) 462
Mr. Shackleton (*Lancashire, Clitheroe*) 463
Mr. Arthur Henderson (*Durham, Barnard Castle*) 463
Mr. Eugene Wason (*Clackmannan and Kinross*) 464
Mr. Seddon (*Lancashire, Newton*) 464
Mr. J. Ward (*Stoke-upon-Trent*) 464

Question put, and agreed to.

Adjourned at Twenty-two minutes after Eleven o'Clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 22ND JUNE, 1906.

COMMISSION.—The following Bills received the Royal Assent:—

1. Finance.
2. Seamen's and Soldiers' False Characters.
3. Metropolitan Police (Commission).
4. Police (Superannuation).
5. Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1).
6. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2).
7. Marriages Provisional Order.
8. Great North of Scotland Railway Order Confirmation.
9. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1).

June 22.] Page

10. Holyhead Water.

11. Norwich Union Life Insurance Society.

12. Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Superannuation Fund).

13. Mersey Railway.

14 North Sussex Gas and Water.

15. Preston, Chorley, and Norwich Tramways.

16. New Mills Urban District Council.

17. North East Lincolnshire Water.

18. National Assurance Company of Ireland and Yorkshire Fire and Life Insurance Company.

19. South Lancashire Tramways (Extension of Time).

20. Scottish Provident Institution Buildings.

21. Mersey Docks and Harbour Board 465

Lord Graves—Henry Cyril Percy Graves' claim to vote as Lord Graves at the election of representative Peers for Ireland. Committee for Privileges to meet on Monday, the 2nd of July next.

Earldom of Norfolk. Committee for Privileges to meet on Monday the 2nd of July next.

Lord Chaworth (*E. Meath*) took the Oath 465

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) ; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6).

The same was ordered to lie upon the Table 466

Standing Orders Committee.—Report from, that the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the London County Council (General Powers) Bill ; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill ; Metropolitan Water Board Bill ; ought to be dispensed with, and the Bills allowed to proceed.

Read, and agreed to 466

Merthyr Tydfil Gas Bill.—Reported with Amendments 466

Buckhaven, Methil, and Innerleven Burgh Extension Bill [H.L.].—Presented, and read 1ª 466

Huddersfield Corporation Bill.—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 17th and 29th of May last discharged, and Bill committed 466

June 22.] *Page*

North-East London Railway Bill.—Committed 466

London County Council (General Powers) Bill; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill; Metropolitan Water Board Bill.—Moved, That the order made on the 26th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be now read 2ª; agreed to; and Bills read 2ª accordingly. 466

Folkstone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill [H.L.]—Nettlebed and District Commons (Preservation) Bill [H.L.]; Ritz Hotel, Limited, Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons 466

Sutton, Southcoates and Drypool Gas Bill.—Read 3ª, with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons 467

London County Council (General Powers) Bill; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill.—Committed, the Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 467

Metropolitan Water Board Bill.—Committed 467

London County Buildings Bill; London County Council (General Powers) Bill; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill; Corporation of London (Blackfriars and other Bridges); London Government Schemes (London and Penge, etc.) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill [H.L.), Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills; (viz.), E. Camperdown (chairman), L. Clinton, L. Monk Bretton, L. Sudley (*E. Arran*), L. Leith of Fyvie; agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Tuesday next, at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills 467

Poole Corporation Water Bill; London County Council (Money) Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; and referred to the examiners .. 467

Maryport Harbour Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to .. 467

Beunos Ayres Grand National Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Channel Ferry Rail-and Quay Bill [H.L.]; Hull Joint Dock Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments 467

Southampton Gas Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to 467

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions Bill).—Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to 467

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. House in Committee (according to order). Bills reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3ª on Monday next 468

June 22.] *Page*

Forfar Corporation Water Order Confirmation Bill.—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed 468

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill (No. 132); Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill (No. 133); Water Provisional Order Bill (No. 134).—Brought from the Commons. Read 1ª; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners 468

Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 6) Bill.—House in Committee (according to order). Bills reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3ª on Monday next .. 468

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Astronomer Royal (Greenwich Observatory).—Report of the Astronomer Royal to the Board of Visitors of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, read at the annual visitation of the Royal Observatory, 30th May, 1906 468

Australia.—Report of the Royal Commission on the Navigation Bill of the Australian Commonwealth, 1904 468

Trade Reports.—Annual Series.

No. 3648. China (Wuhu).

No. 3649. Paraguay.

No. 3650. Austria-Hungary (Fiume) 468

House of Commons (Ventilation).—Report and recommendations of the Committee appointed to investigate and advise the First Commissioner of Works with regard to the improvement of the ventilation of the House of Commons

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 469

Intermediate Education (Ireland).—Rules and Programmes of Examinations for 1907. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 469

Life Insurance Companies.—The evidence taken before the Select Committee from time to time to be printed, but no copies thereof to be delivered, except to members of the Committee, until further order. (No. 131.) .. 469

Life Insurance Companies.—The Lord Balfour discharged from serving on the Select Committee 469

Municipal Corporations Bill.—House in Committee (according to order); Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee 469

House of Lords Offices.—Second Report from the Select Committee considered (according to order), and agreed to 469

June 22.] *Page*

Indian Railways Act Amendment Bill.—House in Committee (according to order); Bill reported without Amendment, and re-committed to the Standing Committee 469

Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill.—Order of the Day for the House to be put into Committee read.

Moved, "That the House do now resolve itself into Committee."—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

The Marquess of Londonderry 469
Viscount St. Aldwyn 472
The Earl of Halsbury 473
Lord Ashbourne 473
The Earl of Dartmouth 474
Lord Hemphill 475
The Earl of Meath 476
The Lord Chancellor (Lord Loreburn) 476

House in Committee (according to order).

[The Earl of Onslow in the Chair.]

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2:—

The Earl of Dartmouth 478
Lord Herries 478
The Earl of Jersey 479
The Lord Chancellor 479

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3:—

The Earl of Dartmouth 479

Amendment moved—

"In page 1, line 11, after the word 'solicitor' to insert the words 'if otherwise qualified.'"—(*The Earl of Dartmouth.*)

The Lord Chancellor 480
The Earl of Halsbury 480

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clause agreed to.

Bill recommitted to the Standing Committee, and to be printed as amended. (No. 135.)

ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE COMMISSION.

Lord Kinnaird 480
The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 481
Viscount St. Aldwyn 482

Reserve Forces Bill.—Order of the day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3^{a}."—(*The Earl of Portsmouth.*)

Lord Haversham 485
The Under-Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Portsmouth*) .. 486

On Question, Bill read 3^{a}, and passed, with the Amendments, and sent to the Commons.

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Lord Denman 487

Moved, "That the Earl Beauchamp be added to the Select Committee."—(*Lord Denman.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

SERVIA.

Lord Newton 487
The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*Lord Fitzmaurice*) .. 490
The Marquess of Salisbury 491
Lord Newton 492

House adjourned at twenty minutes past Six o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 22ND JUNE, 1906.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

COMMISSION.—Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went;—and, having returned;—

Mr. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to a number of Bills (See page 465) 493

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [Lords]; Truro Gas Bill [Lords]; Folkestone and District Electricity Supply Bill [Lords]; Portsmouth Water Bill [Lords]; South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords]; Dover Corporation Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 493

June 22.] *Page*

Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways Bill [Lords]; Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 493

Hull Joint Dock [Lords] (King's Consent signified).—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 494

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Water Provisional Order Bill,—As amended, considered; read the third time, and passed 494

South Lincolnshire Water Bill.—The Chairman of Ways and Means, in pursuance of Standing Order 83 relating to Private Bills, informed the House that, in his opinion, the South Lincolnshire Water Bill, though unopposed, ought to be treated as an opposed Bill 494

Private Bills (Group H.).—Mr. Mooney reported from the Committee on Group H. of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the Clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 494

Great Central and Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast Railways Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed 494

Bridgewater Canals Bill [Lords].—Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 494

Railway Bills (Group 7).—Mr. Osmond Williams reported from the Committee on Group 7 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 494

Hampstead Garden Suburb Bill; Clacton Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Newport Harbour Commissioners Bill [Lords]; Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Bill [Lords]; Railway Clearing System (Superannuation Fund) Bill [Lords] —Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 494

Havana United Railways and Regla Warehouses Bill [Lords].—Reported, with an Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed .. 495

PETITIONS.

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Petitions against; from Brinksway; Keighley; Stewkley; and, West Hampstead; to lie upon the Table .. 495

Education (England and Wales) Bill (Religious Teaching).—Petitions against alteration of Law; from Cambridge; Hatfield; Wokingham; and Wrabness; to lie upon the Table 495

Education (Provision of Meals) (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from Ayr, against; to lie upon the Table 495

June 22.] *Page*

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.—Petitions for alteration of Law: from Cerne; Swansea; and, Wells; to lie upon the Table 495

LAND TENURE BILL.—Petition from Greenock, against; to lie upon the Table .. 495

LAND VALUATION BILL.—Petition from Greenock against; to lie upon the Table 495

LICENSING ACTS.—Petition from Llandaff, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 495

PHARMACY BILL.—Petition from Loughborough, against; to lie upon the Table 495

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].—Petitions for alteration: from Abercromby; Altrincham; Aylesbury (two); Bradford; Bristol; East Toxteth; Glamorganshire; Liverpool; North Ayrshire; Pontypridd; Sheffield (two); Swansea (two); and, Wolverhampton; to lie upon the Table .. 495

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

AUSTRALIA.—Copy presented, of Report of the Royal Commission on the Navigation Bill of the Australian Commonwealth, 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 496

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES) Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3648 and 3649 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 496

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Rules and Programme of Examinations for 1907 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 209] 496

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES—TERMS OF REFERENCE TO PERMANENT TREASURY COMMITTEE.—Question, Dr. Cooper (Southwark, Bermondsey); Answer, Mr. Asquith 496

CHARGE ON POOR RATES OF DISABLED SAILORS AND MARINES—SUGGESTED REFUND BY THE ADMIRALTY.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. John Burns 497

PENSIONS OF QUARTERMASTER WITH RANK OF MAJOR.—Question, Mr. Hicks Beach (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury); Answer, Mr. Haldane 497

Colonial Marriages Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 267.]

Land Tenure Bill.—As amended by the Standing Committee, considered.

Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (*Shropshire, Newport*) 498
Lord Willoughby de Eresby (*Lincolnshire, Horncastle*) 498

New clause—

"Nothing in this Act shall affect existing arrangements between landlord and tenant as to ordinary repairs to premises, gates, fences, drains, or ditches, whether established by agreement or by the custom of the country."—(*Colonel Kenyon-Slaney.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Mr. Soares (Devonshire, Barnstaple) 500

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

Mr. Munro Ferguson (Leith Burghs) 500
Mr. Channing (Northants, E.) 500

New clause—

"It shall not be lawful for a landlord to bind an incoming tenant to settle the claim of the outgoing tenant for compensation for improvements."—(*Mr. Munro Ferguson.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Colonel Lockwood (Essex, Epping) 501
Lord Helmsley (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) 501
Captain Balfour (Middlesex, Hornsey) 502
Mr. Soares 503
Sir F. Banbury (City of London) 503
Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.) 503

Motion and Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Hicks Beach (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) 504
Lord Turnour (Sussex, Horsham) 505

New clause :

"This Act shall come into operation on the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and eight."—(*Mr. Hicks Beach.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

Colonel Kenyon-Slaney 505
Mr. Soares 507
Mr. Walter Long 507
Mr. Nussey (Pontefract) 508
Colonel Williams (Dorsetshire, W.) 508
Sir J. Dickson-Poynder (Wiltshire, Chippenham) 509
Mr. Cave (Surrey, Kingston) 509

Question put, and agreed to.

June 22.] Page

Lord Willoughby de Eresby 509
Mr. Lane-Fox (*Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash*) 510

Amendment proposed to the proposed clause—

"To leave out the words 'first day of January,' and insert the words 'seventh day of April'—(*Lord Willoughby de Eresby*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Soares 510
Mr. Walter Long 510
Mr. Leif Jones (*Westmoreland, Appleby*) 511
Colonel Lockwood 512
Mr. Cowley (*Lancashire, Prestwich*) 513
Mr. J. F. Mason (*Windsor*) 513
Mr. Abel Smith (*Hertfordshire, Hertford*) 514
Sir Edward Strachey (*Somersetshire, S.*) 515
Mr. Lambton (*Durham, S.E.*) 515
Mr. Pike Pease (*Darlington*) 516
Mr. Cave (*Surrey, Kingston*) 517
Mr. Guest (*Cardiff District*) 517
Mr. Courthope (*Sussex, Rye*) 517
Sir H. Aubrey-Fletcher (*Sussex, Lewes*) 519
The Solicitor-General for Scotland (*Mr. Ure, Linlithgowshire*) .. 520

Mr. Soares rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 249 ; Noes, 74. (Division List No. 144.)

Question put accordingly, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

The House divided :—Ayes, 242 ; Noes, 91. (Division List No. 145.)

Mr. Cave 527
Mr. Laurence Hardy 528

Amendment proposed to the proposed clause—

"At the end to add the words 'Provided that it shall not apply to any existing tenancy until the day next after the earliest day on which such tenancy might have been determined by notice given after the passing of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Cave.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Mr. Soares 528
Colonel Kenyon-Slaney 529
Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (*Lanarkshire, N.W.*) 529
Mr. George Faber (*York*) 530

June 22.] *Page*

Mr. Cochrane (Ayrshire, N.) 531
Mr. Channing 532
Sir E. Carson (Dublin University) 532
Mr. Ure 533
Mr. Walter Long 533

Mr. Soares rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the question be now put."

Question put, "That the question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 278 ; Noes, 77. (Division List No. 146.)

Question put accordingly, "That those words be there added."

The House divided :—Ayes, 96 ; Noes, 257. (Division List No. 147.)

Clause added to the Bill.

Mr. Lambton 541
Lord Helmsley 545

Amendment proposed—

"In preamble, page 1, line 3, after the word 'by,' to insert the words 'landlords and.'"—(*Mr. Lambton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Soares 546
Colonel Kenyon-Slaney 547

Mr. Soares rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 286 ; Noes, 78. (Division List No. 148.)

Question put accordingly, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

The House divided :—Ayes, 84 ; Noes, 285. (Division List No. 149.)

Colonel Kenyon-Slaney 558

Amendment proposed—

"In the preamble, page 1, line 3, at the end to add, 'but consistently with the interests of the rural labouring classes and of the community generally in such investment.'"—(*Colonel Kenyon-Slaney.*)

Question, "That those words be there added," put, and agreed to.

Sir Frederick Banbury 559

June 22.] *Page*

And, it being Five of the clock, further consideration of the Bill, amended by the Standing Committee, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended (by Standing Committee), to be further considered upon Friday next.

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 3, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at Four minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 25TH JUNE, 1906.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill; Metropolitan District Railway Bill.—Reported without Amendment 561

Lord Tredegar's Supplemental Estate Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Corporation Bill; Kettering Water Bill.—Reported, with Amendments 561

Metropolitan Railway Bill.—The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments 561

Brixham Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill.—The consent of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in right of his Duchy of Cornwall, signified; and Bill reported with Amendments 561

Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [H.L.]; Hull Joint Dock Bill [H.L.].—Commons' Amendments considered, and agreed to 561

Hackney Electricity Bill.—Committed 561

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Bill.—Brought from the Commons, read 1^a, and referrred to the Examiners 561

Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill.—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 6) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (Poor Law) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.—Read 3^a (according to order), and passed 561

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order); Amendments made: Standing Committee negatived: The Report of Amendments to be received To-morrow 561

June 25.] *Page*

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [H.L.].—House again in Committee (according to order): Amendments made; Standing Committee negatived: The Report of Amendments to be received To-morrow .. 562

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill; Ascot District Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill; Twickenham and Teddington Electric Supply Bill; Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; Pontefract Corporation Bill; Edinburgh Corporation Bill; Lancashire Electric Power Bill; Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill; North West London Railway Bill; Bristol Corporation Bill.—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills; (viz.) L. Clifford of Chudleigh (Chairman), L. Colchester, L. Wynford, L. Ritchie, L. Sanderson; agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly: The Committee to meet on Wednesday the 4th of July next, at Eleven o'clock: and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills 562

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesteven, &c.) Bill [H.L.].—Order of the day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3ª."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Bill read 3ª.

Moved, "That the Bill do pass."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Bill passed, and sent to the Commons 562

PETITION

EDUCATION.—Petition in favour of maintenance of existing religious teaching in Church of England schools; of parents and guardians of children attending school at Blackburn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 563

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES.)—No. 3651. France (Martinique); No. 3652. Turkey (Erzeroum) 563

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP.—Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1905. Report and statistics.

(Dangerous Trades). Statement of the action taken by the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1891, 1895, and 1901 563

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.—Return of advances made under the Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of February, 1906 563

EXPLOSIVES (EXPLOSION AT BLACKBECK, LANCASHIRE).—Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the circumstances attending an explosion which occurred in the gunpowder factory at Blackbeck, Lancashire, on April 30th, 1906.

June 25.] Page

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 563

INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN INDIA).—Return of all loans raised in India chargeable on the revenues of India outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ended March 31st, 1906, with the rates of interest and total amount payable thereon, &c. 563

SEA FISHERIES REGULATION ACT, 1888.—Order made by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries under the provisions of the above Act for the variation of an order for uniting the Lancashire and Western Sea Fisheries District.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table .. 564

Conveyancing Bill [H.L.] (No. 137); Settled Land Bill [H.L.] (No. 138); Married Women's Property Bill [H.L.] (No. 139).—Report from the Select Committee (with Proceedings of the Committee) made, and to be printed. (No. 136): Bills reported with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House; and to be printed as amended 564

Education of Defective Children (Scotland) Bill.—House in Committee (according to order); Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee 564

NORTH SEA FISHERIES.

The Earl of Onslow 564
The President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries (*Earl Carrington*) 570
Lord Heneage 572

Moved, "That there be laid before the House further Papers relating to the proceedings of the International Council for the investigation of the North Sea."—(*The Earl of Onslow.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

THE MERCANTILE MARINE.

Lord Muskerry 575
The Earl of Granard 577
Lord Muskerry 578

AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTIONS.—
Lord Barnard 578
Earl Carrington 580

Ground Game Bill.—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Burghclere 581

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Six o'clock, till to-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 25TH JUNE, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Private Bills [Lords] (Standing Orders not Previously Inquired into complied with).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [Lords]; Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Bill [Lords]; County of Durham Electric Power Supply Bill [Lords]; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 582

Crellin's Patents Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 582

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Bill; Haslingden Corporation Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 582

Rugby Lower School Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 583

Barry Railway Bill [Lords], [not amended]; considered; to be read the third time 583

Cumberland Electricity and Power Gas Bill [Lords]; Scottish Union and National Insurance Company Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed 583

Message from the Lords.—That they have agreed to—Forfar Corporation Water Order Confirmation Bill, without Amendment; Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill, with an Amendment; Reserve Forces Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to incorporate the Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Company, and to empower that Company to make and maintain tramways and other works; and for other purposes." [Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to incorporate a body of conservators for the preservation and management as public open spaces of certain commons in the rural district of Henley, in the county of Oxford; and for other purposes." [Nettlebed and District Commons (Preservation) Bill [Lords].

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for enabling the Ritz Hotel, Limited, to rearrange its capital; and to provide for the extinction of its deferred shares; and for issuing ordinary shares in lieu thereof; and for altering the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company; and for other purposes." [The Ritz Hotel, Limited, Bill [Lords] 583

June 25.] *Page*

Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill [Lords]; Nettlebed and District Commons (Preservation) Bill [Lords]; Ritz Hotel, Limited, Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 583

PETITIONS.

Betting and Gambling.—Petition from Rugby, for legislation; to lie upon the Table 584

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Petitions against; from Calstock; Nottingham (two); and Selly Oak; to lie upon the Table 584

Education (England and Wales) Bill Religious Teaching. — Petitions against alteration of Law; from Blisland; Ingatestone; Maer (two); Morwenstow; and Thurnham (two); to lie upon the Table 584

Infant Life Protection.—Petition from Westmoreland, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 584

Land Values Taxation, etc. (Scotland) Bill.—Petitions against; from Glasgow; and Greenock; to lie upon the Table 584

Pharmacy Bill.—Petitions against; from Leek; and Sheffield; to lie upon the Table 584

Poisons and Pharmacy Bill [Lords].—Petitions for alteration; from Bridgeton; East Gloucestershire; East Renfrewshire and Govan; Halifax; Newcastle-on-Tyne (two); Ripon; and Tiverton (two); to lie upon the Table .. 584

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday.—Petition from Blackpool, in favour to lie upon the Table 584

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

East India (Loans Raised in India).—Copy presented, of Return of all Loans raised in India, chargeable on the Revenues of India, outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ending on the 31st March, 1906, etc. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 210] 584

Trade Reports (Annual Series).—Copies presented of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3650 to 3652 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 585

Factories and Worshops.—Copy presented, of Report of the Chief Inspector for 1905. Report and Statistics [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. 585

Factory and Workshop Acts (Dangerous Trades).—Copy presented, of Statement of the action taken by the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1891, 1895, and 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 585

Explosions (Blackbeck, Lancashire).—Copy presented, of Report of the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the circumstances attending an Explosion which occurred in the Gunpowder Factory at Blackbeck, Lancashire, on the 30th April, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. 585

June 25.] *Page*

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901 (HOME WORK).—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 27th March; *Mr. Ramsay Macdonald*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 211] 585

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.—Copy presented, of Return of Advances made under the Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of February, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 585

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (IRELAND) (FEMALE INSPECTORS).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 24th April; *Sir Charles Dilke*]; to lie upon the Table 585

SEA FISHERIES REGULATION ACT, 1888.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, under the provisions of the Act, for the variation of an Order for uniting the Lancashire and Western Sea Fisheries District [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 585

HOUSE OF COMMONS (VENTILATION).—Copy presented, of Report and Recommendations of the Committee appointed to investigate and advise the First Commissioner of Works with regard to the improvement of the Ventilation of the House of Commons [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 586

GREENWICH OBSERVATORY.—Copy presented, of Report of the Astronomer Royal to the Board of Visitors of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 586

PAUPERISM (ENGLAND AND WALES) (HALF-YEARLY STATEMENTS).—Copy ordered "of Statement of the number of Paupers relieved on the 1st day of January, 1906, and similar Statement for the 1st day of July, 1906 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 81, of Session 1905)."—(*Mr. Runciman*) .. 586

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

PROPERTY AND ESTATE LAWS IN THE TRANSVAAL.—Question, Mr. Grove (Northamptonshire, S.); Answer, Sir John Walton 586

DUTIES OF AUXILIARY POSTMAN AT DERRYBRIEN, COUNTY GALWAY.—Question, Mr. Duffy (Galway, S.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 587

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT—RESTAURANT STAFF AS DOMESTIC SERVANTS.—Question, Mr. Tennant (Berwickshire); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 588

SHORTHAND NOTES OF THE POPLAR INQUIRY.—Question, Sir F. Banbury (City of London); Answer, Mr. John Burns 588

EXTRA DELIVERY OF LETTERS AT CARRIGALLEN, COUNTY LEITRIM.—Question, Mr. T. F. Smyth (Leitrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 588

OFFICER IN CHARGE OF MAGILLIGAN CAMP POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 589

RESPONSIBILITY TO PARLIAMENT OF THE ESTATES COMMISSIONERS.—Question, Mr. Ginnell (Westmeath, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 589

DEFECTIVE SIGHT OF NAVAL OFFICERS.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 589

June 25] Page

EDUCATION AUTHORITIES AND INSTRUCTION IN AGRICULTURAL CO-OPERATION.—Question, Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 590

THE BURTONPORT RAILWAYS.—Question, Mr. MacVeigh (Donegal, E.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 591

APPLICATIONS FOR RE-INSTATEMENT FROM EVICTED TENANTS IN NORTH ROSCOMMON.—Question, Mr. James O'Kelly (Roscommon, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 592

SALE OF THE CLEMENTS ESTATE, COUNTY LEITRIM.—Question, Mr. Dolan (Leitrim, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 592

SPREAD OF CONSUMPTION IN IRELAND.—Question, Sir. Thomas Esmonde (Wexford); Answer, Mr. Bryce 593

PUBLICATION OF IRISH HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde; Answer, Mr. Bryce 593

SALE OF THE ESTATE OF MRS. ADAIR, MOUNT MELLICK.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Bryce 594

NOTICES TO RELEASE PORTIONS OF THE BOG IN COUNTY FERMANAGH.—Question, Mr. Dolan; Answer, Mr. Bryce 595

TERMS OF PURCHASE OF THE CARRYSFORT ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Cogan (Wicklow, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 595

DISTURBANCE IN DUBLIN AT DISTRAINT ON GOODS OF MR. PATRICK O'CARROLL.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 596

ALLEGED BOYCOTTING OF MR. JOHN DOWD OF RYEFIELD, COUNTY ROSCOMMON. Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Bryce 597

SALE OF FARMS ON EARL FITZWILLIAM'S ESTATE.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 597

PAYMENT OF COST BY PATIENTS OBTAINING POOR LAW MEDICAL RELIEF.—Question, Mr. Meagher (Kilkenny, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 598

MAINTENANCE OF PATIENTS TREATED IN THE KILKENNY DISTRICT LUNATIC ASYLUM.—Question, Mr. Meagher; Answer, Mr. Bryce 599

WEEKLY TENANTS AND PAYMENT OF RATES ON COTTAGES.—Question Mr. Meagher; Answer, Mr. Bryce 599

ALLOCATION OF GRANTS FOR THE TEACHING OF IRISH.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 600

CASE OF JAMES WARD AND THE CASTLEBAR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Bryce 600

EVICTED TENANTS IN COUNTY CLARE.—Question, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 601

IRISH INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION BOARD RULES.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 601

GOVERNMENT BOARD AND RESOLUTION BY PARLIAMENT.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 602

REVISION COURT FOR CARRICKMORE.—Question, Mr. Murnaghan (Tyrone, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 602

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) ACT—SUGGESTED REPEAL OF CLAUSE 6.—Question, Mr. Meagher; Answer, Mr. Bryce 603

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) ACT—SUGGESTED REPEAL OF SECTION 83.—Question, Mr. Meagher; Answer, Mr. Bryce 604

IRISH BOARDS OF GUARDIANS AND TENDERS FOR SUPPLIES.—Question, Mr. Meagher; Answer, Mr. Bryce 604

EXTRA POLICE AT LOUGHREA.—Question, Mr. Duffy; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 605

COMPLAINTS OF THE O'HARA TENANTS.—Question, Mr. Duffy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 605

CHANGES IN THE IRISH INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION PROGRAMME.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell; Answer, Mr Bryce 605

TURBARY ON LORD ORKNEY'S ESTATE AT CASTLE INEZ.—Question, Mr. Kendal O'Brien (Tipperary, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 607

REPORT OF THE ESTATES AND LAND COMMISSIONERS.—Question, Mr. P. A. McHugh (Sligo, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 607

GRANT TOWARDS IMPROVEMENT OF KINVARRA HARBOUR.—Question, Mr. Duffy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 608

SOUTH DERBY ELECTION—ASSAULT CASE.—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 608

BELFAST PRISON GOVERNOR.—Question, Mr. McKillop (Armagh, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 609

BELFAST PRISON—CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS.—Question, Mr. McKillop; Answer, Mr. Bryce 610

GLENTIES LAND DISPUTE.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 611

CLONAMIRIN ESTATE SALE.—Question, Mr. Duffy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 612

BELFAST ARMY MEAT SUPPLIES.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Haldane 612

ROYAL SMALL ARMS FACTORY, BIRMINGHAM.—Question, Mr. C. Duncan (Barrow-in-Furness); Answer, Mr. Haldane 612

CRIMEAN VETERAN'S RECORD.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 613

NATAL NATIVES AND THE KIMBERLEY MINES.—Question, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (Leicestershire); Answer, Mr. Churchill 613

June 25.] Page

TRANSVAAL TRADE ROUTES.—Question, Mr. Molteno (Dumfriesshire); Answer, Mr. Churchill 614

AUSTRALIAN TINNED MEATS.—Question, Mr. William Redmond; Answer, Mr. Churchill 614

RUSSIAN TREATMENT OF THE JEWS.—Question, Mr. Straus (Tower Hamlets, Mile End); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 615

SOLVENCY OF INSURANCE COMPANIES.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Kearley 615

DINGWALL AND CROMARTY LIGHT RAILWAYS.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Kearley 615

BLASTING ACCIDENTS IN THE CHANNEL ISLANDS.—Question, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydfil); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 616

CABMEN'S LICENCE SUSPENSION.—Question, Mr. Steadman (Finsbury, Central); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 616

H.M.S. "RENOWN."—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 617

ADMIRALTY CLERKS.—Question, Mr. J. M. Robertson (Northumberland, Tyneside); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 617

NEW MALL ROADWAYS.—Question, Mr. Steadman; Answer, Mr. Harcourt .. 618

CAMPBELTOWN MAILS.—Question, Mr. Younger (Ayr Burghs); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 618

ENNISKILLEN LEARNERS' PAY.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 619

LETTER COLLECTIONS.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 619

CENTRAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE STAFF.—Question, Mr. Seaverns (Lambeth, Brixton); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 619

DIOCESAN EDUCATION INSPECTORS.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease; Answer, Mr. Birrell 620

POPLAR SCHOOLS AT HATTON.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease; Answer, Mr. John Burns 620

PORT OF LONDON (INSPECTION OF TINNED FOODS.—Question, Mr. H. H. Marks (Kent, Thanet); Answer, Mr. John Burns 620

ADMIRALTY CLERKS.—Question, Mr. J. M. Robertson; Answer, Mr. McKenna .. 621

CUSTOMS INSPECTORS.—Question, Mr. H. H. Marks; Answer, Mr. McKenna .. 621

DENATURED ALCOHOL.—Question, Mr. Mond (Chester); Answer, Mr. Asquith .. 622

Page

Jute Cultivation in Bengal.—Question, Mr. Mond; Answer, Mr. Morley .. 622

Bengal and Bombay Civil Service Pension Funds.—Question, Mr. Hart-Davies (Hackney, N.); Answer, Mr. Morley 623

Owen Wynne Estate, County Sligo.—Question, Mr. P. A. McHugh; Answer, Mr. Bryce 623

Imperial Taxation in Ireland.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 624

Ardum Evicted Tenant.—Question, Mr. Sheehan (Cork County, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 625

Irish Teachers.—Question, Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 625

Killaloe Petty Sessions Clerk.—Question, Mr. William Redmond; Answer, Mr. Bryce 626

Belfast—Police Inquiry—Head Constable Farrell.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Bryce 627

Housing of Working Classes—Boyle Commissioners' Resolution.—Question, Mr. James O'Kelly; Answer, Mr. Bryce 627

Irish Taxation.—Question, Mr. Murphy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 628

Italian International Congress.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 629

South African Mining Shares.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 629

Political Pensions.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 630

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Naval Officers' Eyesight.—Questions, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answers, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) .. 630

Army Rations—Preserved Foods.—Questions, Mr. Lea (St. Pancras, E.); Answers, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. Buchanan, Perthshire) 631

Dangerous Ammunition.—Questions, Mr. Robert Hobart (Hampshire, New Forest); Answers, Mr. Buchanan 631

British Officers for the Indian Native Army.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Buchanan 632

Payment of Soldiers in the Field.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, Mr. Buchanan 632

Army Meat and Foreign Contracts.—Question, Mr. MacVeigh (Donegal, E.); Answer, Mr. Buchanan 633

June 25.] *Page*

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—ISSUES OF FIREARMS TO NATIVES.—Question, Mr. Belloc (Salford, S.); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 633

NATAL COURT-MARTIAL.—Questions, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (Leicester) and Mr. Myer (Lambeth, N.); Answers, Mr. Churchill 634

THE "STANDARD" AND "DIGGER'S NEWS."—Questions, Mr. Scott (Ashton-under-Lyne) and Mr. Paul (Northampton); Answers, Mr. Churchill.. 634

THE REPATRIATION PROCLAMATION.—Questions, Mr. Mackarness (Berkshire, Newbury); Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham, E.), Mr. Gooch (Bath), Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs), and Mr. Clement Edwards (Denbigh District); Answers, Mr. Churchill 636

CEYLON PEARL FISHERIES.—Questions, Sir J. Jardine (Roxburghshire); Answers, Mr. Churchill 638

FLOGGING OF CHINESE COOLIES AT THE CRŒSUS MINE.—Questions, Mr. Mackarness; Answers, Mr. Churchill 640

IMPORTATION OF CHINESE COOLIES INTO THE TRANSVAAL.—Question, Mr. J. M. Robertson (Northumberland, Tyneside); Answer, Mr. Churchill 641

DR. CHIVERBACK'S CLAIM.—Question, Mr. J. M. Robertson; Answer, Mr Churchill 641

BOER MIGRATION.—Question, Sir J. Dickson-Poynder (Wiltshire, Chippenham); Answer, Mr. Churchill 642

JEWISH COLONISATION.—Question, Sir W. Evans Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney); Answer, Mr. Churchill 642

THE GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS.—Question, Mr. Llewellyn Williams (Carmarthen District); Answer, Mr. Churchill 642

SIR WEST RIDGEWAY'S COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. Byles (Salford, N.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 643

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVE ADMINISTRATION.—Question, Mr. Byles (Salford, N.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 643

PORTUGAL AND THE TRANSVAAL.—Questions, Mr. Molteno (Dumfriesshire); Answers, Mr. Churchill 643

THE TSE-TSE- FLY.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Churchill 644

ALIENS IN GERMANY.—Question, Sir W. Evans Gordon; Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury) (for Sir Edward Grey) 645

SPANISH TARIFFS.—Questions, Mr. R. Duncan (Lanarkshire, Govan); Answers, Mr. Runciman 645

MACEDONIA.—Question, Mr. Charles Roberts (Lincoln); Answer, Mr. Runciman 646

RUSSIAN TREATMENT OF THE JEWS.—Question, Mr. Harwood (Bolton); Answer, Mr. Runciman 646

ANARCHISTS' NEWSPAPERS IN ENGLAND.—Question, Sir W. Evans Gordon; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 647

LONDON JURIES.—Questions. Mr. Rees; Answers, Mr. Gladstone 647

MOTOR ACCIDENTS IN LONDON.—Questions, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) and Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answers, Mr. Gladstone 647

MISS BILLINGTON'S CASE.—Questions, Mr. Clynes (Manchester, N.E.); Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.); Answers, Mr. Gladstone 648

FLOGGING IN PRISON.—Question, Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, N.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 649

PROBATION GUARDIANSHIP OF CRIMINAL OFFENDERS.—Questions, Mr. Pickersgill; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 649

THE MADRID OUTRAGE.—Questions, Sir W. Evans Gordon; Answers, Mr. W. Gladstone 650

RICHARDS, LIMITED, ABERDEEN.—Question, Mr. Clynes; Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 650

AMERICAN MAIL SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Charles Devlin (Galway); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 651

MALLOM TELEPHONE SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Fullerton (Cumberland, Egremont); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 651

PRESERVED FOODS.—Questions, Mr. Alden (Middlesex, Tottenham); Answers, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 652

CANNED FOODS.—Question, Mr. T. Davies (Fulham); Answer, Mr. John Burns 653

LIGHT RAILWAYS IN THE HIGHLANDS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Kearley, Devonport) 654

CORNISH CRABBERS GRIEVANCE.—Question, Mr. Hay Morgan (Cornwall, Truro); Answer, Mr. Kearley 654

LLANELLTZA SCHOOL.—Question, Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry); Answer, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Birrell, Bristol) .. 655

INSPECTION OF WELSH INTERMEDIATE SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Bridgeman; Answer, Mr. Birrell 655

COST OF SCHOOL HOUSE MAINTENANCE.—Question, Mr. Bridgeman; Answer, Mr. Birrell 656

RELIGIOUS TEACHING IN SCHOOLS.—Question, Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 656

June 25.] *Page*

RAILWAY COMPANIES RECEIPTS.—Question, Mr. Lloyd Morgan (Carmarthenshire, W.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) 657

ROYAL BOTANIC MUSEUM.—Question, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald; Answer, Sir Edward Strachey (Somersetshire, E.) 657

CROFTERS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 658

ROSS-SHIRE SCHOOLS WATER SUPPLY.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 658

UPPER BAYBLE COTTARS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 658

HIGHLAND SCHOOL BOARD FRANCHISE.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 659

SANITATION IN THE ISLAND OF LEWIS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 659

GOVERNMENT LICENSING CASE.—Question, Mr. Duffy (Galway, S.); Answer, The Attorney General for Ireland (Mr. Cherry, Liverpool, Exchange) .. 660

DOWNTULLAGH NATIONAL SCHOOL.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 660

LIMERICK POSTMAN'S PENSION.—Question, Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 660

WAGE DISPUTES—INTERNATIONAL ACTION.—Question, Mr. Wedgwood (Newcastle-under-Lyme); Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 661

EDUCATION BILL CLOSURE.—Question, Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 662

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.—Question, Mr. Horniman (Chelsea); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 662

THE CEYLON PEARL FISHERIES.—Question, Sir J. Jardine; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 662

ENGLISH PRINTERS IN CANADA.—Question, Mr. Walker (Leicestershire, Melton); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 663

PUBLIC TRUSTEE BILL.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 663

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE VOTE.—Question, Mr. Beck (Cambridgeshire, Wisbech); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 664

WOMEN ON LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITIES.—Question, Mr. Leif Jones (Westmoreland, Appleby); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 664

RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT FOR THE TRANSVAAL.—Questions, Mr. Byles and Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. 665

THE EDUCATION BILL.—Question, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 665

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London), Mr. John Redmond (Waterford), Mr. Weir, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald, and Colonel Williams (Dorsetshire, W.); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 666

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL [LORDS].—Reported, with an Amendment, from the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

Ordered, That the Report do lie upon the Table, and be printed. [No. 212.]

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee be printed. [No. 212.]

Ordered, That the Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), be taken into consideration To-morrow 667

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW, ETC.—Ordered, That the Standing Committee on Law have leave to sit To-morrow during the Sitting of the House for the consideration of the Workmen's Compensation Bill.—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel*) .. 667

NEW BILLS.

Removal of Offensive Matter Bill.—" To repeal the provisions of the Metropolitan Police Act, 1839, with respect to the Removal of Offensive Matter in places within the Metropolitan Police Act, 1839, with respect to the Removal of offensive matter in places within the Metropolitan Police District," presented by Mr. John Burns; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 268] 668

Dangerous Performances Bill.—" To consolidate and amend the Law relating to the employment of girls, boys, or women in Dangerous Performances," presented by Mr. Herbert Samuel; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 269] 668

Local Government (Scotland) Act (1894) Amendment Bill.—" To amend the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894," presented by Mr. Cathcart Wason; supported by Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. Harmsworth, Mr. John Dewar, Mr. Weir, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Gulland, Sir Henry Craik, Viscount Dalrymple, Sir John Batty Tuke, Major Anstruther-Grey, Mr. Younger, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, and Mr. Cross; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. [Bill 270] 668

Probation of First Offenders Bill.—" To amend the Probation of First Offenders Act, 1887; and to authorise the appointment of Probation officers, presented by Sir Howard Vincent; supported by Viscount Helmsley; to be read a second time upon Monday, July 16th, and to be printed. [Bill 271] 668

Education (England and Wales) Bill.

Considered in Committee:—

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 4 :—

Mr. Evelyn Cecil (*Aston Manor*) .. 669

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 39, to leave out the word 'may,' and insert the word 'shall.' "—(*Mr. Evelyn Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'may' stand part of the clause."

The President of the Board of Education (*Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.*) .. 672
Lord Edmund Talbot (*Sussex, Chichester*) .. 677
Mr. Blake (*Longford, S.*) .. 679
Mr. Paul (*Northampton*) .. 685
Mr. Lyttelton (*St. George's, Hanover Square*) .. 687
Dr. Macnamara (*Camberwell, N.*) .. 690
Mr. Laurence Hardy (*Kent, Ashford*) .. 695
Mr. Belloc (*Salford, S.*) .. 697
Sir Francis Powell (*Wigan*) .. 698
Mr. Alfred Hutton (*Yorkshire, W.R., Morley*) .. 699
Mr. William Redmond (*Clare, E.*) .. 700
Mr. J. Chamberlain (*Birmingham, W.*) .. 703
Mr. Spicer (*Hackney, Central*) .. 706
Sir Henry Craik (*Glasgow and Aberdeen University*) .. 706
Mr. Harwood (*Bolton*) .. 707
Mr. Charles Roberts (*Lincoln*) .. 709
Mr. T. W. Russell (*Tyrone, S.*) .. 712
Sir Thomas Esmonde (*Wexford, N.*) .. 713
Mr. Hart Davis (*Hackney, N.*) .. 715
Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (*Leicester*) .. 715
Mr. Llewellyn Williams (*Carmarthen District*) .. 720
Mr. Wyndham (*Dover*) .. 723
Mr. George White (*Norfolk, N.W.*) .. 725
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (*Liverpool, Scotland*) .. 726
Mr. A. J. Balfour (*City of London*) .. 729

Motion made, and Question, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again"—(*Mr. Birrell*)—put, and agreed to.

Committee report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

Great Northern Railway Bill [BY ORDER).—Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question [June 19th], "That the Bill, as amended, be now considered."

Question again proposed—

Mr. Morton (*Sutherland*) .. 737

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.' "—(*Mr. Morton.*)

June 25.] *Page*

Question proposed, " That the word ' now ' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Weir (*Ross and Cromarty*) 738

Main Question put, and agreed to. Bill, as amended, considered.

Amendments made.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read a third time."—(*Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Mr. Mooney (*Newry*) 743
The Chairman of Ways and Means (*Mr. Emmott, Oldham*) 743

Motion accordingly opposed.

THE WORCESTER ELECTION.—The Attorney-General (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.) 743

Question proposed, " Worcester Election—That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, as followeth :—

" Most Gracious Sovereign,

" We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave humbly to represent to Your Majesty that Sir John Compton Lawrence, knight, one of the Justices of the High Court of Justice, and Sir Joseph Walton, knight, one of the Justices of the High Court of Justice, being two of the Judges appointed for the trial of Election Petitions, pursuant to The Parliamentary Elections Act, 1868, and The Parliamentary Elections and Corrupt Practices Act, 1879, have reported to the House of Commons that there was reason to believe extensive corrupt practices had taken place at the last Election for the City of Worcester.

" We therefore humbly pray Your Majesty that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to cause inquiry to be made, pursuant to the powers of the Act of Parliament passed in the sixteenth year of the reign of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled ' An Act to provide for more effectual inquiry into the existence of Corrupt Practices at Elections for Members to serve in Parliament,' by the appointing of Edward Tindal Atkinson, esquire, one of Your Majesty's Counsel, Attorney-General for Your Majesty's County Palatine of Durham, and Recorder of Leeds ; Horace Edmund Avory, esquire also one of Your Majesty's Counsel and Recorder of Kingston upon-Thames ; and Charles Willie Matthews, esquire, Barrister at Law and Recorder of Salisbury, as Commissioners for the purpose of making inquiry into the existence of such corrupt practices."—(*Mr. Attorney-General.*)

Question put, and agreed to.

Ordered, That the said Address be communicated to the Lords, and their concurrence desired thereto.—(*Mr. Attorney-General.*) 744

And, it being after half-past Eleven of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at ten minutes before Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 26TH JUNE, 1906.

WORCESTER ELECTION.—Message from the Commons that they have agreed to an Address to be presented to His Majesty, to which they desire the concurrence of this House 745

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with: Poole Corporation Water.

Also the Certificate that no further standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill: London County Council (Money).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 746

Buckhaven, Methil, and Innerleven Burgh Extension Bill [H.L.].—Read 2^a 746

Dowlais Gas Bill; Merthyr Tydfil Gas Bill.—Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 746

St. John's (Westminster) Improvement Bill.—Brought from the Commons; Read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners 746

Crellin's Patents Bill [H.L.]; Rugby Lower School Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to 746

Haslingden Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to .. 746

Glasgow and South Western Railway Order Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to confirm a Provisional Order relating to the Glasgow and South Western Railway—Was presented by the Lord Hamilton of Dalzell (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, Sections 8 and 9); Read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 141.) 746

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill.—Moved, That the order made on March 26th last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be now read 2^a; agreed to; Bills read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Thursday next 746

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [H.L.].—Amendments reported (according to order); and Bills to be read 3^a on Thursday next 747

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MALTA.—Correspondence between the Governor and the Archbishop-Bishop of Malta in regard to the holding of Protestant Mission Services at the Theatre Royal, Malta 747

FISHERIES (SCOTLAND).—Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, being for the year 1905. Part II. Salmon Fisheries 747

LONDON BUILDING ACTS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1905.—*Precis* of the evidence given before the Select Committees of both Houses of Parliament.

Presented (by Command) and ordered to lie on the Table 747

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Draft Order in Council containing certain provisions in the Order in Council of March 6th, 1902; Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 747

OFFICE OF THE GENTLEMAN USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.—Report from the Select Committee (with the Proceedings of the Committee and an appendix) made, and to be printed. (No. 140) 747

Juvenile Smoking Bill [H.L.].—The evidence taken from time to time before the Select Committee to be printed for the use of Members of this House; but no copies thereof to be delivered, except to the Members of the Committee, and to such other persons as the Committee think fit until further order. (No. 142) 747

Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill.—Reported from the Standing Committee with further Amendments. The Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House and by the Standing Committee to be received on Thursday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 143) .. 748

Municipal Corporations Bill.—Reported from the Standing Committee with an Amendment. The Report thereof to be received on Thursday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 144) 748

Indian Railways Act Amendment Bill; EDUCATION OF DEFECTIVE CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Reported from the Standing Committee without Amendment; and to be read 3ª on Thursday next 748

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five o'clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 26TH JUNE, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Cambrian Railways Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 748

St. John's (Westminster) Improvement Bill.—As amended, considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

June 26] Page

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed 748

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP I.).—Ordered, That the said Dr. John C. Thresh do attend the Committee on Group I of Private Bills on Thursday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock 748

Newtonards Urban District Council Bill [LORDS].—Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 749

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 6) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (Poor Law) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill, without Amendment:—

Amendments to—Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways Bill [Lords]; Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [Lords]; Hull Joint Dock Bill [Lords]; without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill intituled, " An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Education, under the Education Acts, 1870 to 1903, to enable the Councils of the Administrative Counties of the Parts of Kesteven, Surrey, and Warwick, and the Municipal Borough of Ealing to put in force the Land Clauses Acts." [Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesteven, &c.) [Lords] 749

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesteven, &c.) Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 273] 749

PETITIONS.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT (1896) AMENDMENT BILL.—Petition from Haverfordwest, against; to lie upon the Table 750

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions against; from Bedlington (two); Caerleon; Farndon; Findern; Flookburgh (two); Himley; Hitchin; Leaton; Marbury; Meriden; Radford; Rickling and Quendon; and Shrewsbury; to lie upon the Table 750

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).—Petitions against alteration of Law; from Liscard (two); Long Marston; and Menheniot; to lie upon the Table 750

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.—Petitions for alteration of Law; from Canterbury; and, Romsey; to lie upon the Table 750

LAND VALUES TAXATION, ETC. (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, against; to lie upon the Table 750

June 26.] *Page*

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].—Petitions for alteration; from Barry Dock or South Glamorgan; Burnley; Devizes (two); Doncaster; Ilkley; Maidstone (two); Otley; Seacombe; Winchester; and, Woolwich; to lie upon the Table 750

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS) BILL [LORDS].—Petition from Shoreditch, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 750

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS BILL.—Petition from Sheffield, against; to lie upon the Table 750

SUMMARY JURISDICTION (CHILDREN) BILL.—Petition from Royal Burghs of Scotland, in favour; to lie upon the Table 751

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

SEA FISHERIES REGULATION ACT, 1888.—Paper [presented 25th June] to be printed. [No. 213.] 751

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (IRELAND) (FEMALE INSPECTORS).—Return [presented 25th June] to be printed. [No. 214.] 751

LONDON BUILDING ACTS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1905.—Copy presented, of précis of the evidence given before the Select Committees of both Houses of Parliament [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 751

ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE (ROYAL COMMISSION).—Copy presented, of Report of the Royal Commission on Ecclesiastical Discipline [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 751

FISHERY BOARD (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, being for the year 1905. Part II. Salmon Fisheries [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 751

BOROUGHS (RATEABLE VALUE).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 4th April; *Mr. John Tennant*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 215.] 751

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3653 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 751

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of Draft Order in Council continuing certain provisions in the Order in Council of 6th March, 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 751

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

SETTLEMENT OF ISLE OF LEWIS COTTARS IN ROSS-SHIRE.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 752

WITHHOLDING OF INCREMENT DUE TO SENIOR TELEGRAPHISTS.—Question, Mr. C. J. O'Donnell (Newington, Walworth); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. 752

June 26.] Page

FORCIBLE REMOVAL OF FISHERMEN TO FACILITATE NAVAL SHOOTING PRACTICE.—Question, Mr. Mildmay (Devonshire, Totnes); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 753

EXPEDITED PUBLICATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN BLUE-BOOKS.—Question, Mr. Brodie (Surrey, Reigate); Answer, Mr. Churchill 753

IRISH LAND PURCHASE—AVERAGE PRICES.—Question, Mr. P. A. McHugh (Sligo, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 754

BRITISH POLICY-HOLDERS IN AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANIES.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 755

OXFORDSHIRE PUPIL TEACHERS' CENTRE.—Question, Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 755

SALE OF LANDS OF THE PRYNCES CHARITY.—Question, Sir Walter Forster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston); Answer, Mr. Trevelyan 756

WORKING OF THE TEACHERS' REGISTER.—Question, Sir Edward Sassoon (Hythe); Answer, Mr. Birrell 756

EXCHANGE COMPENSATION ALLOWANCES TO EUROPEAN OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN SERVICES.—Question, Sir Seymour King (Hull, Central); Answer, Mr. Morley 757

TEMPORARY ASSISTANT LAND COMMISSIONER.—Question, Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 757

DISMISSAL OF ASSISTANT LAND COMMISSIONERS.—Question, Mr. Walter Long; Answer, Mr. Bryce 758

CIVIL EXAMINATION FOR ASSISTANT LAND COMMISSIONERS.—Question, Mr. Walter Long; Answer, Mr. Bryce 758

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS—CASE OF JEREMIAH MURPHY.—Question, Mr. Sheehan (Cork County, Mid,); Answer, Mr. Bryce 760

BELFAST HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Bryce 760

SPREAD OF CONSUMPTION IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Ffrench (Wexford, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 761

IRISH LAND PURCHASE—APPLICATION OF HUGH HEAVY OF TULLYVILLA, COUNTY CAVAN.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 761

STATUS OF CLERICAL STAFF OF THE IRISH REGISTRY OF TITLES (CENTRAL OFFICE).—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 762

SCOTCH VOLUNTEER REGIMENTS ATTACHED TO OTHER THAN THEIR OWN BRIGADE CAMP ALLOWANCE.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs); Answer, Mr. Haldane 762

June 26.]

Page

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

NAVAL PROMOTIONS.—Questions, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) 763

CEYLON CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.—Questions, Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham, E.); Answers, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 764

BRITISH GUIANA.—Question, Mr. Byles (Salford, N.); Answer, Mr. Churchill .. 764

FOREIGN COMMERCIAL AGENTS IN BRITISH COLONIES.—Question, Mr. Laidlaw (Renfrewshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 765

RELIGIOUS PROCESSIONS IN MALTA.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 766

APPOINTMENTS TO THE INDIAN EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.—Questions, Mr. Hazel (West Bromwich) and Sir H. Cotton; Answers, The Under-Secretary of State for India (Mr. Ellis, Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) 766

CHICAGO MEAT PACKING TRADE.—Question, Mr. H. H. Marks (Kent, Thanet); Answer, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick) 767

BRITISH RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA—MASSACRES OF JEWS IN RUSSIA.—Questions, Sir W. Evans-Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland); Answers, Sir Edward Grey 768

CONGO FREE STATE.—Question, Mr. Alden (Middlesex, Tottenham); Answer, The Secretary to the Local Government Board (Mr. Runciman) for Sir Edward Grey) 769

BRIXTON PRISON.—Questions, Mr. Seaverns (Lambeth, Brixton) and Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answers, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 767

WELSH MINE INSPECTION.—Questions, Mr. Llewellyn Williams (Carmarthen District), Mr. William Abraham, and Colonel Herbert (Monmouthshire, S.); Answers, Mr. Gladstone 770

MAGHERY (MOY) POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. McKillop (Armagh, S.); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) .. 773

SEA ENCROACHMENTS.—Questions, Mr. Stanley Wilson (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness); Answers, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) 774

THE WRECK OF THE "COURIER."—Questions, Sir W. J. Collins (St. Pancras, W.); Answers, Mr. Lloyd-George 774

RAILWAY WORKING PRECAUTION AGAINST ACCIDENTS.—Question, Mr. Wardle (Stockport); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 775

ILL-TREATMENT OF SHIPS' APPRENTICES.—Questions, Mr. H. H. Marks; Answers, Mr. Lloyd-George 775

June 26.] *Page*

The Technological College.—Questions, Sir W. J. Collins and Sir Philip Magnus (London University); Answers, The Secretary to the Board of Education (Mr. Lough, Islington, for Mr. Birrell) 776

Registration of Teachers.—Question, Mr. Smeaton (Stirlingshire); Answer, Mr. Lough 777

Miners' Association—Registration of Rules.—Question, Mr. Richardson (Nottingham, S.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) 778

Pupil Teachers' Grants in Scotland.—Question, Mr. Gulland (Dumfries Burghs); Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) .. 778

South Leith Manse Assessment.—Questions, Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.), Mr. Munro Ferguson (Leith Burghs), and Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, Mid.); Answers, Mr. Sinclair 779

Sound of Kilbrennan—Herring Fishing.—Question, Mr. Lamont (Buteshire); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 780

Cork Magistracy.—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Cherry, Liverpool Exchange) 781

Coosroam (Kerry Pier).—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Cherry for Mr. Bryce 781

Irish Fisheries—Boat Building Return.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.); Answer, Mr. Cherry 782

Marine Works Act.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde; Answer, Mr. Cherry 782

Artisans' Dwellings in Irish Urban Districts.—Questions, Mr. William (Redmond, Clare, E.), and Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.), and Mr. Flavin; Answers, Mr. Cherry 782

Irish Land Purchase—Average Prices.—Question, Mr. P. A. McHugh (Sligo, N.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.) .. 784

Price of Congested Estates.—Question, Mr. P. A. McHugh; Answer, Mr. Bryce 784

Clare Evicted Tenants.—Question, Mr. Halpin (Clare, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 784

Evicted Farms in County Clare.—Questions, Mr. Halpin and Mr. William Redmond; Answers, Mr. Bryce 784

South Cork Fisheries.—Question, Mr. Edward Barry (Cork County); Answer, Mr. Bryce 785

Muckross Barytes Mines.—Question, Mr. Edward Barry; Answer, Mr. Bryce 786

Loans for Labourers' Cottages.—Question, Mr. Sheehan (Cork County, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 786

CONSTABLE MASTERSON, ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.—Questions, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Bryce 787

CAPPAMORE EVICTED TENANTS.—Questions, Mr. Lundon (Limerick, E.), and Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 788

LLOYD ESTATE, CAPPAMORE.—Question, Mr. Lundon; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 788

IRISH INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell Mr. John Redmond (Waterford), Mr. Swift MacNeill, and Mr. Sloan (Belfast, W.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 790

PROTECTION OF IRISH FISHERIES.—Questions, Mr. Power (Waterford, E.), and Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answers, Mr. Bryce 790

KILCLONEY EVICTED FARM.—Question, Mr. Hammond (Carlow); Answer, Mr. Bryce 791

DUNMORE FISHERY.—Question, Mr. Power; Answer, Mr. Bryce 792

INSPECTION OF BILINGUAL SCHOOLS.—Questions, Mr. Boland; Answers, Mr. Bryce 792

FEES FOR IRISH INSTRUCTION.—Question, Mr. Boland; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 793

PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION IN IRELAND.—Questions, Mr. Vincent Kennedy (Cavan, W.), and Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.); Answers, Mr. Bryce .. 794

FAIR RENT APPEALS.—Questions, Mr. Vincent Kennedy, Mr. T. W. Russell and Mr. Flavin; Answers, Mr. Bryce 794

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD CLERKS—EXAMINATION PAPERS.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 795

IRISH BANKRUPTCY LAW.—Question, Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 796

IRISH FINANCE.—Questions, Sir Thomas Esmonde; Answer, Mr. McKenna .. 796

THE UNEMPLOYED.—Question, Mr. Harold Cox (Preston); Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 797

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Sir BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill: Mr. Secretary Gladstone and Sir Charles Dilke; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Leif Jones and Mr. Wiles.

Sir BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee, That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures: Mr. Higham; and had appointed in substitution Mr. Charles Hobhouse

June 26.] *Page*

Sir Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee, That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure: Mr. Charles Hobhouse; and had appointed in substitution Mr. Higham.

Reports to lie upon the Table 798

Selection (Standing Committees).—Sir Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Law and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Charitable Loan Societies (Ireland) Bill: Mr. John Redmond, Mr. Clancy, Mr. O'Shee, Captain Donelan, and Mr. Halpin; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. MacVeagh, Mr. Power, Mr. Murnaghan, Mr. Swift MacNeill, and Mr. Hugh Law.

Report to lie upon the Table 798

Selection (Standing Committees).—Sir Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following fifteen Members, in respect of the Bills of Exchange Act (1882) Amendment Bill: Mr. Attorney-General, Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, Sir Arthur Bignold, Mr. Holden, Mr. Hambro, Mr. Napier, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Godfrey Baring, Sir George Kekewich, Sir Frederick Banbury, Mr. Walker, Mr. Waldron, Mr. John Phillipps, Sir Thomas Glen Coats, and Mr. Nicholls.

Reports to lie upon the Table 798

Workmen's Compensation Bill.—Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

Ordered, That the Report do lie upon Table, and be printed. [No. 216.]

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee be printed. [No. 216.]

Ordered, That the Bill (as amended in the Standing Committee), be taken into consideration upon Monday next, and be printed. [Bill 272] .. 799

NEW BILL.

Infant Life Protection Bill.—"To amend the Infant Life Protection Act, 1897," presented by Mr. Staveley Hill; supported by Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Arthur Lee, Mr. Claude Hay, Mr. Walrond, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Mr. Hills, and Mr. Nicholls; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, July 3rd, and to be printed. [Bill 274] 799

Local Government (Ireland) Act (1898) Amendment Bill.—"To amend the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, with respect to bridges," presented by Mr. Patrick O'Brien; supported by Mr. O'Mara and Mr. Meagher; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 275] 799

Canals Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to Canals," presented by Mr. Barran; supported by Mr. Channing, Mr. Parkes, Mr. Cross, Mr. Field, Mr. Steadman, Mr. Ridsdale, Mr. Clement Edwards, Mr. Wiles, Mr. William Lever, Mr. Brunner, and Mr. Mond; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, July 10th, and to be printed. [Bill 276] 799

June 26.]

Monastic and Conventual Institutions Bill.

Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.) 799

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill, to appoint Commissioners to inquire as to the growth in numbers of Conventual and Monastic Institutions in Great Britain and Ireland; and whether any further regulations of such Institutions are required."—(*Mr. T. L. Corbett.*)

Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland) 801

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 72; Noes, 231. (Division List No. 151.)

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 4:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 39, to leave out the word 'may' and insert the word "shall."—(*Mr. Evelyn Cecil.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'may' stand part of the Clause."

The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) .. 805
Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) 811
Mr Atherley-Jones (Durham, N.W.) 819
Mr. F. E. Smith (Liverpool, Walton 822
M. Adkins (Lancashre, Middleton) 829
Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.) 829
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 836
Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) 840

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 340; Noes, 237. (Division List No. 152.)

Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.) 849

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 39, after the word 'may,' to insert the words 'subject to an appeal to the Board of Education in event of refusal.'"—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

June 26.] Page

Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 849
Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.) .. 850
Mr. Birrell .. 850

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Cave (Surrey, Kingston) .. 851

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 1, to leave out the words "in an urban area."—(*Mr. Cave.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Mr. Lough, Islington, W.) .. 852
Mr. Abel Smith (Hertfordshire, Hertford) .. 853
Mr. Starkey (Nottinghamshire, Newark) .. 854
Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.) .. 855
Mr. Talbot (Oxford University) .. 857
Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) .. 859
Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.) .. 860
Mr. Middlemore (Birmingham, N.) .. 861
Mr. Nussey (Pontefract) .. 862
Colonel Williams (Dorsetshire, W.) .. 863
Mr. Stuart (Sunderland) .. 864
Mr. Lough .. 864
Mr. Clavell Salter (Hampshire, Basingstoke) .. 864
Mr. R. Peace (Staffordshire, Leek) .. 866
Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry) .. 867
The Solicitor-General (Sir W. Robson, South Shields) .. 870
Sir William Anson (Oxford University) .. 871
Mr. Joseph Walton (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley) .. 875
Mr. Laurence Hardy (Kent, Ashford) .. 876
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland) .. 877
Mr. Birrell .. 879
Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 882

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 344; Noes, 186. (Division list, No. 153.)

And, it being after Eleven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

Cork City Railways and Works Bill [BY ORDER].—Order for Third Reading read (King's consent signified).

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Mr. O'Shee (Waterford, W.) .. 891
Mr. Power (Waterford, E.) .. 893

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. O'Shee.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (*Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.*) 894

Question put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to. Bill read the third time, and passed.

Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords].—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment to Question [24th May], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Which Amendment was—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. William Lever.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question put, and agreed to. Bill read a second time, and committed.

Mr. W. H. Lever (*Cheshire, Wirral*) 894
Mr. Summerbell (*Sunderland*) 895

Motion made and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they shall provide that the Wirral Railway Company shall not run any omnibus in any city, borough, or other urban district provided with a system of tramways or omnibuses except with the consent of the local authority or local authorities, as the case may be, working such tramways or omnibuses."—(*Mr. W. H. Lever.*)

Mr. Tomkinson (*Cheshire, Crewe*) 892
Mr. William Rutherford (*Liverpool, West Derby*) 898

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of the proposed Amendment, to add the words, 'but that if such consent shall be unreasonably withheld the matter shall be determined by the Board of Trade, whose decision shall be final and binding.'"—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Colonel Lockwood (*Essex, Epping*) 898

Motion made, and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned"—put, and negatived.

Question put, "That those words be there added."

The House divided :—Ayes, 90 ; Noes, 120. (Division List No. 154.)

Main Question again proposed.

Lord R. Cecil 901
Mr. Harmood-Banner (Liverpool, Everton) 901
The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. George Whiteley, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) 902
Mr. Forster (Kent, Sevenoaks) 902
Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton) 903
Lord Turnour (Sussex, Horsham) 903
Mr. Shackleton (Lancashire, Clitheroe) 904
Mr. W. H. Lever 904
Colonel Lockwood 904
Mr, Vivian (Birkenhead) 905
Sir F. Banbury (City of London) 905

Mr. W. H. LEVER rose in his place, and claimed to move, " That the question be now put."

Question, " That the Question be now put," put and agreed to.

Question put accordingly, " That the debate be now adjourned."

The House divided :—Ayes, 34 ; Noes, 153. (Division List, No. 155.)

Mr. VIVIAN claimed, " That the Main Question be now put."

Main Question put accordingly.

The House divided :—Ayes, 149 ; Noes, 35. (Division List, No. 156.)

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill, that they shall provide that the Wirral Railway Company shall not run any omnibus in any city, borough, or other ubran district provided with a system of tramways or omnibuses except with the consent of the local authority or local authorities, as the case may be, working such tramways or omnibuses.—(*Mr. William Lever.*)

Musical Copyright Bill.—Order for the House to be again put into Committee read.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor (Liverpool, Scotland) 909

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.) in the Chair.

Clause 1 :—

Amendment proposed—

> " In page 1, line 6, to leave out the word ' music ' and insert the words ' copies of any musical work, or has in his possession any plates for thepurpose of printing or reproducing pirated copies of any musical work.' "—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*)

Question proposed, " That the word ' music ' stand part of the clause."

Question put, and negatived.

Question proposed, " That the words ' copies of any musical work, or has in his possession any plates for the purpose of printing or reproducing pirated copies of any musical work ' be there inserted."

And, it being after Eleven of the clock on Tuesday evening, and objection being taken to further proceeding, the Deputy-Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress. To sit again this day.

INCLOSURES (COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND).—Return ordered, " showing (1) the number of Inclosures of common land made under the Inclosures Acts from 1845 to 1899 in the County of Cumberland ; (2) list of parishes within which such lands are wholly or partly situate ; (3) total acreage of such Inclosures ; (4) average acreage of such Inclosures."—(*Mr. Fullerton*) 912

And, it being after half-past Eleven of the clock on Tuesday evening, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at three minutes after One o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 27TH JUNE, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time 913

Hampstead Garden Suburb Bill.—As amended, considered. Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed 913

Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies Bill [LORDS]. —As amended, considered ; to be read the third time 913

Question put, "That those words be there added."

The House divided :—Ayes, 90 ; Noes, 120. (Division List No. 154.)

Main Question again proposed.

Lord R. Cecil 901
Mr. Harmood-Banner (*Liverpool, Everton*) 901
The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (*Mr. George Whiteley, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey*) 902
Mr. Forster (*Kent, Sevenoaks*) 902
Mr. Claude Hay (*Shoreditch, Hoxton*) 903
Lord Turnour (*Sussex, Horsham*) 903
Mr. Shackleton (*Lancashire, Clitheroe*) 904
Mr. W. H. Lever 904
Colonel Lockwood 904
Mr, Vivian (*Birkenhead*) 905
Sir F. Banbury (*City of London*) 905

Mr. W. H. Lever rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the question be now put."

Question, "That the Question be now put," put and agreed to.

Question put accordingly, "That the debate be now adjourned."

The House divided :—Ayes, 34 ; Noes, 153. (Division List, No. 155.)

Mr. Vivian claimed, "That the Main Question be now put."

Main Question put accordingly.

The House divided :—Ayes, 149 ; Noes, 35. (Division List, No. 156.)

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill, that they shall provide that the Wirral Railway Company shall not run any omnibus in any city, borough, or other ubran district provided with a system of tramways or omnibuses except with the consent of the local authority or local authorities, as the case may be, working such tramways or omnibuses.—(*Mr. William Lever.*)

Musical Copyright Bill.—Order for the House to be again put into Committee read.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor (*Liverpool, Scotland*) 909

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid.) in the Chair.

Clause 1 :—

Amendment proposed—

> " In page 1, line 6, to leave out the word ' music ' and insert the words ' copies of any musical work, or has in his possession any plates for the purpose of printing or reproducing pirated copies of any musical work.' "—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*)

Question proposed, " That the word ' music ' stand part of the clause."

Question put, and negatived.

Question proposed, " That the words ' copies of any musical work, or has in his possession any plates for the purpose of printing or reproducing pirated copies of any musical work ' be there inserted."

And, it being after Eleven of the clock on Tuesday evening, and objection being taken to further proceeding, the Deputy-Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress. To sit again this day.

INCLOSURES (COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND).—Return ordered, " showing (1) the number of Inclosures of common land made under the Inclosures Acts from 1845 to 1899 in the County of Cumberland ; (2) list of parishes within which such lands are wholly or partly situate ; (3) total acreage of such Inclosures ; (4) average acreage of such Inclosures."—(*Mr. Fullerton*) 912

And, it being after half-past Eleven of the clock on Tuesday evening, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at three minutes after One o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS : WEDNESDAY, 27TH JUNE, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time 913

Hampstead Garden Suburb Bill.—As amended, considered. Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed 913

Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies Bi [LORDS]. —As amended, considered ; to be read the third time 913

June 27.] *Page*

Hull and Barnsley Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered ; an Amendment made ; Bill to be read the third time 913

Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time 913

Sheffield District Railway Bill [Lords].—As amended, to be considered upon Friday 913

Trent Navigation Company Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered ; to be read the third time 913

Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [Lords] ; Dover Corporation Bill [Lords] ; Folkestone and District Electricity Supply Bill [Lords] ; Portsmouth Water Bill [Lords]. — Read a second time, and committed 913

South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords]. —To be read a second time to-morrow 913

Truro Gas Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed 913

Penllwyn Railway and Road Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments ; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 914

PETITIONS.

Advertisements Regulation Bill.—Petition from Wandsworth, for alteration of Law ; to lie upon the Table 914

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Petitions against ; from Cradley ; Ferring ; Gonalston ; Kingston (Sussex) ; Preston, East ; Tuck Hill, Alveley : Warleggan ; Warnham ; and Wimbledon ; to lie upon the Table 914

Education (England and Wales) Bill (Religious Teaching).—Petitions against alteration of Law ; from Aldershot ; Bolton (two) ; Criftins (two) ; Ellesborough (two) ; Facit (two) ; Martindale ; North Ockendon ; Sanderstead ; Shawforth (two) ; and, Tardebigge ; to lie upon the Table 914

Education (Provision of Meals) (Scotland) Bill.—Petitions from Glasgow, against ; to lie upon the Table 914

Infant Life Protection.—Petitions for alteration of Law ; from Bristol ; and, Leicester ; to lie upon the Table 914

Municipal Powers Bill.—Petition from Cheltenham, against ; to lie upon the Table 914

Poisons and Pharmacy Bill [Lords].—Petitions for alterations ; from Bristol, East ; Brixton (two) ; Carmarthen and Llanelly (two) ; Glasgow ; Harrow ; Lancaster ; Midlothian (two) ; Preston (two) ; Walthamstow ; Wanstead ; West Sussex ; and, Wimbledon ; to lie upon the Table 914

Street Betting Bill.—Petition from Wandsworth, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 914

Street Betting Bill [Lords].—Petition from Wandsworth, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 915

SUNDAY TRADING (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, in favour ; to lie upon the Table 915

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, for alteration ; to lie upon the Table 915

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Paper [presented 26th June] to be printed. [No. 217.] 915

MALTA.—Copy presented, of Correspondence between the Governor and the Archbishop-Bishop of Malta in regard to the holding of Protestant Mission Services at the Theatre Royal, Malta [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 915

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—Clergy Discipline Act. Copy of Additional Rules under the Clergy Discipline Act, 1892, dated 25th June, 1906 [by Act] 915

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL—SUGGESTED REFERENCE TO A SELECT COMMITTEE.—Question, Mr. Winfrey (Norfolk, S.W.) ; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 915

PUBLICATION OF EVIDENCE OF COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.—Question, Mr. Radford (Islington, E.) ; Answer, Mr. John Burns 916

TRANSVAAL LAW AFFECTING TRUSTEES AND ESTATE DUTY.—Question, Mr. Grove (Northamptonshire, S.) ; Answer, Mr. Churchill 916

TRANSLATION INTO CHINESE OF GOVERNMENT PROCLAMATIONS.—Question, Mr. Essex (Gloucestershire, Cirencester) ; Answer, Mr. Churchill 916

ATTACKS ON JEWS IN RUSSIA.—Question, Mr. Straus (Tower Hamlets, Mile End) ; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 917

BRITISH INSURANCE COMPANIES AND MORTGAGES ON IRISH LAND.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick) ; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 917

PROTECTION OF LIFE INSURANCE POLICY-HOLDERS.—Question, Mr. Field ; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 917

BRAKES ON ELECTRIC CARS.—Question, Mr. T. Davies (Fulham) ; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 918

DAMAGE TO CROPS BY MOTOR TRAFFIC.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs) ; Answer, Mr. John Burns 918

WATER SUPPLY FOR COTTAGES AT BAILY HALL, BIRDBROOK, ESSEX.—Question, Mr. C. E. Schwann (Manchester, N.) ; Answer, Mr. John Burns 918

EDUCATION BILL—GOVERNMENT AMENDMENTS TO CLAUSE 6.—Question, Mr. Rawlinson (Cambridge University) ; Answer, Mr. Birrell 919

EDUCATION BILL (FINANCIAL PROPOSALS).—Question, Mr. Rawlinson ; Answer, Mr. Birrell 919

June 27.]

Page

DISMISSED EMPLOYEES TRADING IN OPPOSITION TO THEIR LATE EMPLOYERS—SUGGESTED LEGISLATION.—Question, Mr. Hodge (Lancashire, Gorton); Answer, Sir John Walton 920

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL AND ARMY MEAT CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, E.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 920

TIDWORTH BARRACKS—SCAVENGING TENDERS.—Question, Mr. Morse (Wiltshire, Wilton); Answer, Mr. Haldane 921

GOVERNMENT WRITERS' WAGES AT WEEDON.—Question, Mr. Grove; Answer, Mr. Haldane 921

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

ADMIRALTY FLAG LIST.—Questions, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answers, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) 922

DISCHARGES FROM WOOLWICH ARSENAL.—Question, Mr. Crooks (Woolwich); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddingtonshire) .. 922

FOURTH BATTALION WORCESTERSHIRE REGIMENT.—Question, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool); Answer, Mr. Haldane 923

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA—LABOUR CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 194

CANADIAN EMIGRATION BOUNTIES.—Question, Mr. Hazleton (Galway, N.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 923

CEYLON PEARL FISHERIES.—Questions, Mr. Smeaton (Stirlingshire); Mr. Charles Hobhouse (Bristol, E.), and Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answers, Mr. Churchill 924

PAY OF OFFICERS IN INDIA.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Morley, Montrose Burghs) 926

INDIAN GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts; Answer, Mr. Morley 926

INDIAN EXCISE ADMINISTRATION.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts; Answer, Mr. Morley 927

PUBLIC PROCESSIONS IN BENGAL.—Questions, Dr. Rutherford (Middlesex, Brentford) and Mr. Rees; Answers, Mr. Morley 927

THE PARTITION OF BENGAL.—Question, Mr. Rees: Answer, Mr. Morley 928

ESTATE DUTIES.—Questions, Mr. Sears (Cheltenham); Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer); (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 928

DISCHARGE OF CRIMINAL LUNATICS.—Question, Mr. Marnham (Surrey, Chertsey); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 930

June 27.] *Page*

TRAMCAR ACCIDENTS.—Questions, Mr. Myer (Lambeth, N), Mr. J. Henderson (Aberdeenshire, W.), Mr. Waterlow (Islington, N.), Mr. Cairns (Newcastle-on-Tyne), and Mr. Shackleton (Lancashire, Clitheroe); Answers, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Burghs) 931

ISLAND OF CAMBRAE STEAMER SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Barrie (Londonderry, N.); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 932

VAGRANCY COMMITTEE'S REPORT. — Question, Mr. Marnham; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) .. 933

EDUCATION ACT—SCHOOL EFFICIENCY.—Question, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.); Answer, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 933

CONTRACTED-OUT SCHOOLS.—Questions, Dr. Macnamara, Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley), Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.), and Sir E. Carson (Dublin University); Answers, Mr. Birrell 934

PUPIL TEACHERS' TRAVELLING EXPENSES.—Question, Mr. Armitage (Leeds, Central); Answer, Mr. Birrell 934

HOLYROOD PARK.—Question, Mr. Gulland (Dumfries Burghs); Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale) .. 935

METEOROLOGICAL SCIENCE GRANT.—Question, Mr. Young (Cavan, E.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) 935

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW.—Question, Mr. Branch (Middlesex, Enfield); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey (Somersetshire, S.) 935

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS, SOUTH LONDON ESTATE.—Questions, Mr. Herbert Roberts; Answers, Mr. Charles Hobhouse (Bristol, E.) 936

COLONEL MALONE'S WESTMEATH ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Ginnell (Westmeath, N.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.) .. 737

IRISH LAND VALUATION—JOHN CASEY'S HOLDINGS.—Questions, Mr. Ginnell; Answers, Mr. Bryce 937

THE FEATHERSTON-WHITNEY ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 938

IRISH INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION BOARD.—Questions, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 939

VALUE OF TENANTS' INTEREST.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 939

LAND PURCHASE INSPECTORS.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 940

CLEAVER ESTATE, COUNTY ROSCOMMON.—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 940

GREAT SEAL OF IRELAND.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 940

June 27.] *Page*

Birth Certificate Fees.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 940

Constabulary Fund.—Questions, Mr. Sloan; Answers, Mr. Bryce 942

Ardara (Donegal) Evicted Tenant.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 942

Irish Local Government Board—Mr. Monteith's Appointment.—Questions, Mr. Meehan (Queen's County, Leix); Answers, Mr. Bryce 942

Irish Land Commission Staff.—Questions, Mr. Meehan and Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, Mr. Bryce 944

Dublin Audit Dispute.—Question, Mr. John Roche (Galway, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 944

Miss Ffrench's Galway Estate.—Question, Mr. John Roche; Answer, Mr. Bryce 945

Lord Clanricarde and his Tenants.—Questions, Mr. John Roche, Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.), Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.), Mr. Kilbride (Kildare, S.), Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, Mr. Bryce 946

Gellin Estate, County Sligo.—Question, Mr. P. A. McHugh (Sligo, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 949

Irish Herring Industry.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 949

Suggacurran Evicted Tenants.—Questions, Mr. Meehan and Mr. Kilbride; Answers, Mr. Bryce 949

Clanricarde Evicted Tenant.—Question, Mr. John Roche; Answer, Mr. Bryce 95

Woodford Dog Licence Prosecution.—Questions, Mr. John Roche; Answer, Mr. Bryce 951

Irish Lunacy Grant.—Question, Mr. Cogan (Wicklow, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 952

Standing Committee on Law.—Questions, Mr. William O'Brien (Cork); Answers, The Speaker 953

Dissemination of News in War Time.—Questions, Mr. Arthur Lee (Hampshire, Fareham); Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 954

Expiring Laws.—Questions, Mr. O'Mara (Kilkenny, S.); Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 955

The Dogs Bill.—Question, Mr. Morrell (Oxfordshire, Henley); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 955

June 27.] *Page*

The Agricultural Vote.—Question, Mr. Morrell; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 955

Public Rights of Way.—Question, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (Leicester); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 955

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill.—Question, Mr. Heaton Armstrong (Suffolk, Sudbury); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 956

The Attack on British Officers in Egypt.—Question, Mr. Dillon; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 956

Progress of the Education Bill.—Questions, Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London), Mr. Austin Taylor (Liverpool, East Toxteth), Lord R. Cecil; Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.. 958

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill.—Reported from the Standing Committee on Trade, etc., with Amendments.

Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 218.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 218.]

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be taken into consideration To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 277] 958

NEW BILLS.

Isle of Man (Customs Bill).—"To amend the law with respect to Customs Duties in the Isle of Man," presented by Mr. McKenna; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 278] 959

Meat Marking (Ireland) Bill.—"To provide for Marking of important Meat in Ireland," presented by Mr. Field; supported by Mr. Condon, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Captain Donelan, and Mr. O'Mara; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 17th July, and to be printed. [Bill 279] 959

Education (England and Wales) Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 4:—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 2, to leave out the word 'the.'"—(*Mr. Villiers.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'the' stand part of the clause."

The President of the Board of Education (*Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.*) .. 961
Lord R. Cecil (*Marylebone, E.*) 961
Lord Morpeth (*Birmingham*) 962
Mr. Ashley, (*Lancashire, Blackpool*) 962

June 27.] *Page*

Question put.

The Committee divided.—Ayes, 344; Noes, 87. (Division List No. 157.)

Mr. Birrell 965

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 7, after the word 'that,' to insert the words 'as the result of a ballot taken as to the wishes of the parents in accordance with regulations made for the purpose by the Board of Education it appears that.'"—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. A. J. Balfour (*City of London*) 967
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 968
Mr. Stuart (*Sunderland*) 969
Sir Gilbert Parker (*Gravesend*) 969
Mr. Perks (*Lincolnshire, Louth*) 970
Mr. Birrell 970
Mr. Verney (*Buckinghamshire, N.*) 972
Sir E. Carson (*Dublin University*) 972
Mr. Blake (*Longford, S.*) 973
Lord R. Cecil 973
Mr. Birrell 974
Mr. Wyndham (*Dover*) 976
Mr. Dillon 976
Mr. Samuel Evans (*Glamorganshire, Mid.*) 977
Sir E. Carson 977
The Solicitor-General (*Sir W. Robson, South Shields*) 979
Mr. Cave (*Surrey, Kingston*) 980
Mr. Stuart 981
Mr. A. J. Balfour 981
The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.*) 982
Mr. Blake 983
Mr. Laurence Hardy (*Kent, Ashford*) 984
Mr. Birrell 985
Mr. Wyndham 986
Sir Henry Fowler (*Wolverhampton, E.*) 986
Mr. Harold Cox (*Preston*) 988
Sir Gilbert Parker (*Gravesend*) 988
Mr. William Redmond (*Clare, E.*) 988
Sir W. Robson 989
Mr. A. J. Balfour 989

Question put and agreed to.

Mr. Evelyn Cecil (*Aston Manor*) 990

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 7, to leave out the words 'the parents of at least four-fifths,' and insert the words 'a reasonable number of parents.'" —(*Mr. Evelyn Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Page
Mr. Birrell .. 992
Mr. Butcher (*Cambridge University*) .. 993
Mr. Lane Fox (*Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash*) .. 996
Mr. Power (*Waterford, E.*) .. 996
Lord Morpeth (*Birmingham, S.*) .. 998
Mr. William Redmond .. 999
Mr. Birrell .. 1000
Mr. J. Chamberlain (*Birmingham, W.*) .. 1001
Mr. Gibbs (*Bristol, W.*) .. 1006

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 312 ; Noes, 142. (Division List No. 158.)

Sir Thomas Esmonde (*Wexford, N.*) .. 1011

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 8, after the word 'schools,' to insert the words 'whose parents voted in the ballot.'"—(*Sir Thomas Esmonde.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be inserted."

Mr. Dillon .. 1012
Mr. Birrell .. 1013
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (*Liverpool, Scotland*) .. 1014
Lord Balcarres (*Lancashire, Chorley*) .. 1016
Mr. Perks .. 1017
Mr. Shackleton (*Lancashire, Clitheroe*) .. 1017
Mr. Burdett-Coutts (*Westminster*) .. 1018
Mr. William Redmond .. 1020
Mr. Gardner (*Berkshire, Wokingham*) .. 1021
Mr. J. Ward (*Stoke-on-Trent*) .. 1021
Mr. H. R. Mansfield (*Lincolnshire, Spalding*) .. 1021
Sir W. Robson .. 1022
Mr. Rawlinson (*Cambridge University*) .. 1023
Mr. Nield (*Middlesex, Ealing*) .. 1024

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 158 ; Noes, 295. (Division List No. 159.)
(*Lord R. Cecil*)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 9, to leave out the words 'public school.'"—(*Lord R. Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. Dillon .. 1030
Mr. Alfred Hutton (*Yorkshire, W.R., Morley*) .. 1031
Mr. J. Chamberlain .. 1031
Mr. Birrell .. 1032
Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 1033

June 27.]

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 367 ; Noes, 197. (Division List No. 160)

And, it being after half-past Ten of the clock, the Chairman proceeded to put the Question on the Amendments proposed by the Government of which notice had been given, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 18th June.

Amendment made—

"In page 3, line 20, by inserting, after the word 'inquiry,' the words 'and cause a ballot to be taken.' "—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 22, at the end, to insert the words 'extended facilities shall not be afforded under this section except where the use of the schoolhouse is given, or the schoolhouse is transferred, to the local education authority free of any rent or other payment.' "—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Question put, "That the Amendment be made."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 360 ; Noes, 200. (Division List No. 161.)

Amendment made—

"In page 3, line 25, by inserting, after the word 'inquiry,' the words 'and causing a ballot to be taken.' "—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 2, at the end, to add the words 'where the local education authority refuse to agree to an arrangement offered to them by the owners of the schoolhouse of an existing voluntary school as respects the use of the schoolhouse, and the school is one in respect of which extended facilities could be granted under this section, and are desired, the owners of the schoolhouse may appeal to the Board of Education, and that Board may, if they think fit, after considering the circumstances of the case, and the wishes of the parents of children attending the school as to the continuance of the school with extended facilities, by order, make an arrangement under this Act with respect to the use of the schoolhouse on such terms and conditions as may be contained in the order, including, if thought fit, a condition requiring extended facilities to be afforded, but if under any special circumstances of the case the Board think it expedient, they may, instead of making such an arrangement, make an order allowing the school to continue as a State-aided school. Provided that—

" '(a) An order shall not be made under this provision unless the schoolhouse is, in the opinion of the Board of Education, structurally suitable ; and (b) An arrangement made by order for the use of a schoolhouse under this provision shall not have effect for more than five years.

"'It shall be the duty of the local education authority to comply with any condition contained in any arrangement made by an order under this section."'—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Question proposed, "That the Amendment be made."

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 318 ; Noes, 161. (Division List No. 162.)

Amendment proposed—

"After the words last added, to add the words '(5) The parents of at least twenty children attending a transferred voluntary school, if aggrieved by the mode in which extended facilities are afforded by a local education authority, may appeal to the Board of Education, and that Board, if satisfied, after considering the circumstances of the case, that there are reasonable grounds for the appeal, may make an order allowing the school to continue as a State-aided school, and providing so far as necessary for the cancelling of any arrangement made with respect to the transfer or use of the schoolhouse and for any other matter for which provision is required in connection with the order.'"—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Question put, "That the Amendment be made."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 392 ; Noes, 156. (Division List No. 163.)

Amendment made—

"By adding, after the words last added, the words '(6) Where an order is made under this section allowing a school to continue as a State-aided school, the Board of Education may, notwithstanding anything in this Act, pay to that school, although it is not a school provided by the local education authority, the Parliamentary grants which would be payable in respect of the school or the scholars in the school if it was a school so provided, so long as all other statutory conditions affecting the payment of grants, so far as applicable to the school, are complied with in the case of the school.'"—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Amendment proposed—

"After the words last added, to add the words, '(7) No child shall be reckoned, for the purposes of this section, as a child attending a school unless the child has attended the school with due regularity for at least six months in accordance with the code of minutes of the Board of Education for the time being in force in respect to public elementary schools, and if any question arises whether a child is a child attending a school for the purposes of this section that question shall be decided by the Board of Education.'"—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Question put, "That the Amendment be made."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 444 ; Noes, 118. (Division List No. 146.)

Question put, "That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

June 27.] *Page*

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 415 ; Noes, 138. (Division List No. 165.)

Clause 5 :—

Amendment made—

> " In page 4, line 3, by leaving out the words ' take over ' and inserting the words ' make an arrangement for the transfer to them, or the use by them, of the schoolhouse of.' "—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Amendment proposed—

> " In page 4, line 8, at the end, to add the words ' but nothing in this section shall be construed so as to apply the provisions of this Act allowing an appeal to the Board of Education in cases where a local education authority refuse to make an arrangement as respects the use of the schoolhouse of an existing voluntary school.' "—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Question put, " That the Amendment be made."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 352 ; Noes, 182. (Division List No. 166.)

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Whereupon the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again upon Monday next.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) [EXPENSES].—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of an additional Annual Grant, not exceeding one million pounds, to be distributed among Local Education Authorities in pursuance of any Act of the present session to make further provision with respect to Education in England and Wales, and of the remuneration and Expenses of the Commissioners appointed under such Act."—(*Mr. Lough*).

Question put forthwith, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 18th June. The Committee proceeded to a Division.

The Chairman named Mr. Whiteley and Mr. Joseph Pease as Tellers for the Ayes ; but, there being no Members willing to act as Tellers for the Noes, he declared the Ayes had it.

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next 1079

Musical Copyright Bill.—Order for Committee read.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor (*Liverpool, Scotland*) 1080

Objection being taken, Committee was deferred till To-morrow.

Rights of Way Bill.—Order for Committee read, and discharged, Bill withdrawn 1080

East India (Officers) (Exchange Compensation).—Address for "Return containing copies of all the Resolutions issued by the Government of India with regard to the grant of Exchange Compensation allowance to European Officers of the Indian Service."—(*Sir Seymour King*) 1080

And it being after half-past Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday Evening, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at twenty-one minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 28TH JUNE, 1906.

Lord Graves (Claim to Vote). Several witnesses ordered to attend the Committee for Privileges on Monday next, and produce documents .. 1081

Earldom of Norfolk. Several witnesses ordered to attend the Committee for Privileges on Monday next, and produce documents.. 1081

Worcester Election, Message to the Commons for copies of Minutes of the evidence taken at the trial of the Worcester election petition 1081

The Lord Petre took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with: Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power.

And also the Certificates that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1); Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2); Water Provisional Order.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 1081

Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]; The King's Consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee with Amendments 1081

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill [H.L.]; Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—The Order made on Friday last, appointing certain Lords the Select Committee to consider the Bills, discharged 1081

Lord Tredegar's Supplementary Estate Bill [H.L.]; read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons 1081

North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill; Brixham Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill; Read 3^a, and passed 1082

June 28.] *Page*

Kettering Water Bill.—Read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 1082

Hampstead Garden Suburb Bill; Cork City Railways and Works Bill.—Brought from the Commons, read 1ª; and referred to the Examiners .. 1082

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill [H.L.]; Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Five Lords appointed a Select Committee on the Uxbridge Gas Bill and another Bill do form the Select Committee for the consideration of the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill [H.L.], and the Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; read and agreed to. All petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills 1082

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. House in Committee (according to order); Bills reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3ª To-morrow 1082

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill. [H.L.], Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons 1082

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.—Petition in favour of maintenance of existing religious education in Church of England Schools; of parents and guardians of children attending school at Colne; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1082

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

WORCESTER ELECTION.—Minutes of evidence taken at the trial of the Worcester election petition communicated (pursuant to Message of this day) 1083

BOARD OF EDUCATION (1906).—Code of Regulations for Public Elementary Schools with schedules 1083

COLONIES: ANNUAL.

No. 486. St. Helena (Report for 1905): 1083

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3653. Russia (Odessa).
No. 3654. France (Nice).
No. 3655. Turkey (Salonica).
No. 3656. Germany (Trade of Germany for 1905).
No. 3657. Venezuela (Carcas) 1083

ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE.—Report of the Royal Commission 1083

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS, 1853–1891 (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).—Licence granted by His Majesty to Constance Farrilley, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution, Milton House, Chelsea 1083

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 TO 1902 (PROCEEDINGS).—Report by the Board of Trade respecting the applications to and proceedings of the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 to 1902, during the past year .. 1083

PILOTAGE.—Abstract of returns relating to pilots and pilotage in the United Kingdom (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 300 of Session 1905), as furnished by the various pilotage authorities 1083

HARWICH HARBOUR.—Abstract of the Accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Harwich Harbour Conservancy Board from the time of their incorporation down to and inclusive of March 31st, 1906.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1083

EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875.—Thirtieth Annual Report of His Majesty's Inspectors of Explosives, for 1905 1084

TONNAGE.—Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into the operations of Section 78 and 87 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, in regard to the measurement of the tonnage of steamships; with minutes of evidence, appendices, and index. I. Report; II. Minutes of evidence, appendices, and index 1084

NAVY.—(New Construction)—Memorandum explanatory of the programme of new construction for 1905–1906; with details not included in the Navy Estimates for 1906–1907.

(Wireless Telegraphy)—Agreement between the Admiralty and the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, dated July 24th, 1903.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1084

CLERGY DISCIPLINE ACT, 1892.—Additional Rules, dated the 25th day of June, 1906, under the Act 1084

Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill.—Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3ª to-morrow 1084

Indian Railways Act Amendment Bill; Education of Defective Children (Scotland) Bill.—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed 1084

Municipal Corporations Bill.—Amendment reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3ª to-morrow 1084

THE FLAG AT WESTMINSTER.

The Earl of Meath 1084
The Lord Steward of the Household (the Earl of Liverpool) 1087
Lord Stanmore 1087

Page

ARMY MEAT CONTRACTS.

The Earl of Mayo 1088
The Under Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Portsmouth*) 1089

WORCESTER ELECTION.

The Lord Chancellor (*Lord Loreburn*) 1090

Moved, " To agree with the Commons in the Address to His Majesty, and to fill up the blank with ' Lords Spiritual and Temporal and ' "—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Lord Steward and the Lord Chamberlain to present the Address on the part of this House; the Lord Chamberlain to learn His Majesty's pleasure concerning the presentation of the said Address.

House adjourned at Five o'clock till To-morrow half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 28TH JUNE, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.: Kent Electric Power Bill [LORDS]

Ordered, that the Bill be read a second time 1091

Dublin Police Bill (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 20th day of June, That, in the case of the following Bill, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—Dublin Police Bill 1092

Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill.—Lords Amendment considered, and agreed to 1092

Barry Railway Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment 1092

Great Northern Railway Bill.—To be read the third time upon Monday next 1092

Rutherglen Burgh Order Confirmation Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to Rutherglen Burgh," presented by Mr. Sinclair; read the first time; and ordered (under Section 9 of the Act) to be read a second time upon Monday, July 9th, and to be printed. [Bill 280.] 1092

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill.—Reported with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]. Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill as amended to be considered to-morrow 1092

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed].—Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time to-morrow 1092

Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of the Working Classes) Bill.—Reported without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]. Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time to-morrow 1093

Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 3) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed].—Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time to-morrow 1093

Manchester Churches Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table 1093

Londan County Council (Electric Supply) Bill.—Reported from the Select Committee [Preamble not proved]. Report to lie upon the Table 1093

London County Council (Electric Supply) Bill.—Special Report from the Select Committee brought up, and read. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 219.]

Minutes of proceedings to be printed. [No. 219.] 1093

London and North Western Railway Bill [Lords].—Reported, with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1093

Railway Bills (Group 7).—Mr. Osmond Williams reported from the Committee on Group 7 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday next, at a quarter before Eleven of the Clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 1093

Private Bills (Group I).—Mr. Toulmin reported from the Committee on Group I of Private Bills; That, at the metting of the Committee this day, a letter was received from Mr. Henry, one of the Members of the said Committee, stating that he was unable, on account of domestic affliction, to attend the Committee this day.

Report to lie upon the Table 1093

June 28.] *Page*

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to, Dowlais Gas Bill, Merthyr Tydfil Gas Bill, with Amendments.
Amendments to, Haslingden Corporation Bill [Lords], without Amendment 1094

PETITIONS.

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) (CONSOLIDATION) BILL.—Petition from Dundee, against; to lie upon the Table 1094

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.—Petitions against; from Basford; Bristol; Dingley; Dovercourt; Dunwich; Holdenby (two); Lampeter; Pilton; Plaistow; Sale; Spratton; and, Wadenhoe; to lie upon the Table 1094

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).—Petitions against alteration of Law; from Fulham; Leek; London; and Sunderland; to lie upon the Table 1094

FATAL ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS INQUIRY (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions from Dundee, against; to lie upon the Table 1094

LAND VALUES TAXATION, ETC. (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions from Condorrat; Dundee; and Glasgow; to lie upon the Table 1094

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].—Petitions for alteration; from Buckingham; Federation of Pharmaceutical Associations; Hallam; Leominster; Morley (two); Newport Pagnell; North Hertfordshire; North West Kent; Prestwich; Sheffield; Sunderland; Watford (two); and, West Toxteth; to lie upon the Table 1094

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3654 to 3657 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1094

EXPLOSIVES.—Copy presented, of Thirtieth Annual Report of His Majesty's Inspectors of Explosives, being for the year 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1095

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).—Copy presented, of Licence granted to Constance Farrilley, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution, Milton House, Chelsea, S. W. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1095

TONNAGE.—Copy presented, of Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into the operation of Sections 78 and 87 of The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, in regard to the measurement of the tonnage of Steamships, with Minutes of Evidence, Appendices, and Index. I. Report; II. Minutes of Evidence, Appendices, and Index [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1095

June 28.] *Page*

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 TO 1902 (PROCEEDINGS).—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the Applications to and Proceedings of the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 to 1902, during the past year [by Act]; to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 220.] 1095

PILOTAGE.—Copy presented, of Abstract of Returns relating to Pilots and Pilotage in the United Kingdom (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 300, of Session 1905) as furnished by the various Pilotage Authorities [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 221] 1095

HARWICH HARBOUR.—Copy presented, of Abstract of the Accounts of the Receipts and Expenditure of the Harwich Harbour Conservancy Board from the time of their incorporation down to and inclusive of March 31st, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 222] 1095

MAGISTRATES (SCOTLAND).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered March 15th; *Mr. Eugene Wason*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 223] 1095

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).—Copy presented, of Colonial Report No. 486 (St. Helena, Report for 1905) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1096

NAVY (WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY).—Copy presented, of the Agreement between the Admiralty and the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, dated July 24th, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1096

NAVY (NEW CONSTRUCTION).—Copy presented, of Memorandum explanatory of the programme of New Construction for 1905–6, with details not included in the Navy Estimates for 1906–7 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table .. 1096

BOARD OF EDUCATION (CODE 1906).—Copy presented, of Code of Regulations for Public Elementary Schools, with Schedules, by the Board of Education [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1096

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—LUNACY.—Copy of Sixtieth Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy to the Lord Chancellor [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 224] 1096

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN INDIA.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, Mr. Morley 1096

DATE OF INDIAN BUDGET DEBATE.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts; Answer, Mr. Morley 1096

IRISH POSTAL SERVICE PROMOTIONS.—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1097

TELEGRAPHIC FACILITIES AT SOUTHAMPTON.—Question, Lieutenant-Colonel Philipps (Southampton); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1097

FEMALE MEDICAL OFFICERS FOR GLASGOW POSTAL STAFF.—Question, Mr. Watt (Glasgow College); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1097

June 28.] *Page*

CLAIMS OF IRISH EVICTED TENANTS.—Mr. O'Mara (Kilkenny, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1098

IRISH SCHOOL MANAGERS AND DR. STARKIE.—Question, Mr. P. A. McHugh (Sligo, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1099

SUMMONSES FOR DISTURBANCES AT EVICTION OF MR. WARD AT LOUGHREA.—Question, Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1099

WATERFORD TOLL BRIDGE.—Question, Mr. Power (Waterford, E.); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1100

SALE OF SIR H. BURKE'S ESTATE AT THE MARBLE HILL.—Question, Mr. Duffy (Galway); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1100

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY INSPECTORS—MR. H. MORIARTY.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1101

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS—Rebuilding Plans.—Question, Mr. John Roche (Galway, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1102

REPORT OF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EDUCATION.—Question, Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1102

TEACHING OF IRISH IN SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Walter Long; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1103

IMPROVEMENTS OF KINARD HARBOUR.—Question, Mr. Duffy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1103

SALE OF ST. GEORGE'S ESTATE, TYRONE—CASE OF MARY GREALLY.—Question, Mr. Duffy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1104

SPREAD OF CONSUMPTION IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Duffy 1104

CONGESTION IN COUNTY GALWAY.—Question, Mr. Duffy; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 1104

APPLICATION FOR UNTENANTED LAND AT ARDRAHAN, COUNTY GALWAY.—Question, Mr. Duffy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1105

MONTHLY PAYMENT OF SALARIES OF IRISH SCHOOL TEACHERS.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1105

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS—CASE OF JAMES SMYTHE.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1106

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS — CASE OF PETER VICTORY.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer Mr. Bryce 1107

FAIR RENTS APPEALS AT KILLARNEY.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1107

SUPPLY OF ANSWERS TO IRISH QUESTIONS.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1108

IRISH LAND PURCHASE—IMPROPER SALES.—Question, Mr. Ginnell (Westmeath, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1108

June 28.] *Page*

NORTHUMBERLAND ARTILLERY MILITIA TRAINING GROUND.—Question, Sir Robert Hobart; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1109

BARRACK ACCOMMODATION AT THE BRITISH LEGATION AT PEKIN.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1109

ADDITIONAL SQUADRON OF LOVAT SCOUTS.—Question, Mr. John Dewar (Inverness); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1109

DISPOSAL OF SITES AND BUILDINGS CONNECTED WITH THE DEFENCE OF LONDON.—Question, Mr. Gibbs (Bristol, W.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1110

SUGGESTED GOVERNMENT GRANT TO RIFLE CLUBS. — Question, Mr. Hicks Beach (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury); Answer, Mr Haldane .. 1110

BRITISH COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATION ABROAD.—Question, Mr. Laidlaw (Renfrewshire, E.); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1110

THE EGYPTIAN SHOOTING AFFAIR.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1111

CASE OF MR. CECIL BISSET.—Question, Mr. Thomasson (Leicester); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1111

COMPENSATION FOR ACCIDENTS TO POSTAL EMPLOYEES ON TRAVELLING POST OFFICES.—Question, Mr. Steadman (Finsbury, Central); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1112

REDUCTION OF MR. F. GATES, SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICT POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Steadman; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1114

TELEGRAPHIC DELAYS AT BRISTOL.—Question, Mr. W. T. Wilson (Lancashire, Westhoughton); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1114

POOR LAW CHILDREN IN WORKHOUSES.—Question, Sir John Kennaway (Devonshire, Honiton); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1115

NATIONAL VACCINE ESTABLISHMENTS STOCK OF LYMPH.—Question, Sir W. J. Collins (St. Pancras, W.); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1115

REPORT OF ECCLESIASTICAL DISORDERS COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. Austin Taylor (Liverpool); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1116

EDUCATION BILL—STATE-AIDED SCHOOLS.—Question, Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1117

REBUILDING OF CULS NATIONAL SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1117

IRISH LAND ACT, SECTION 23 (11), PERCENTAGE SALE.—Question, Mr. P. A. McHugh; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1118

CATHOLIC CATECHIST AT ARMAGH UNION SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1118

IRISH LAND PURCHASE—CASE OF JOHN DUFFY.—Question, Mr. Duffy; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1119

June 28.] Page

Wireless Telegraphy in the Army and Navy.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1120

Pay of Government Employees attending Volunteer Camps.—Question, Colonel Lockwood (Essex, Epping); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1121

Sunday Performances of Military Band.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1121

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Admiralty Clerks.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) 1121

The Admiralty and the Marconi Company.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1122

Sleeping Sickness at Entebbe.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney, Shetland); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, Mid.) 1123

Uganda—Sleeping Sickness.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, Mr. Churchill 1123

Lake Victoria—Sleeping Sickness.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, Mr. Churchill 1123

Chinese Coolies in South Africa.—The Repatriation Proclamation.—Question, Mr. Bottomley (Hackney, S.), Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.), Mr. Myer (Lambeth, N.), Major Seely (Liverpool, Abercromby), and Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford); Answers, Mr. Churchill 1125

The Johannesburg "Standard and Diggers News."—Question, Mr. Scott (Ashton-under-Lyne); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1125

Crime among the Chinese Coolies.—Questions, Major Seely, Mr. Byles (Salford, N.), Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-on-Trent), and Mr. Paul (Northampton); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1127

The Cason Mining Company.—Questions, Mr. Fell (Great Yarmouth); Answers, Mr. Churchill 1128

Coolie Riot in the Nourse Mine.—Question, Mr. Mond (Chester); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1129

Coolie Outrages in South Africa.—Question, Mr. Mond; Answer, Mr. Churchill 1129

"Tremble and Obey."—Questions, Mr. Clement Edwards (Denbigh District), Mr. J. Ward, and Mr. Flaviu (Kerry, N.); Answers, Mr. Churchill 1129

British Guiana.—Question, Mr. J. Ward; Answer, Mr. Churchill 1130

West Africa—Alcoholic Imports.—Questions, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answers, Mr. Churchill 1131

June 28.] Page

RUSSIA AND THE ALAND ISLANDS.—Question, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool); Answer, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick) 1132

THE RUSSIAN MASSACRES.—Questions, Mr. Thorne (West Ham, S.), and Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answers, Sir Edward Grey 1132

THE SERVIAN REGICIDES.—Question, Mr. Bottomley; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1133

THE ATTACK ON BRITISH OFFICERS IN EGYPT.—Questions, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.), Mr. Cave, and Mr. Byles; Answers, Sir Edward Grey 1135

WHISKY.—Question, Mr. Samuel Young (Cavan, E.); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 1136

INCOME TAX.—Question, Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.); Answer, Mr. Asquith 1136

PROSECUTIONS FOR FOOD ADULTERATION AT LEICESTER.—Question, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (Leicester); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 1137

VIVISECTION.—Questions, Mr. G. Greenwood (Peterborough); Answers, Mr. Gladstone 1137

METROPOLITAN POLICE AT ASCOT.—Questions, Dr. Cooper (Southwark, Bermondsey), Mr. Morton (Sutherland), Mr. Thorne, and Mr. Paul; Answers, Mr. Gladstone 1138

DEFAULTING SOLICITORS.—Question, Mr. Bottomley; Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. 1139

LEAD POISONING IN THE COACH-MAKING TRADE.—Question, Mr. Arthur Henderson (Durham, Barnard Castle); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1139

CEMENT FACTORIES—WORKMEN'S SHELTERS.—Question, Mr. J. Ward; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1140

CENSUS OF PRODUCTION—PROPOSED INCLUSION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.—Question, Mr. Beck (Wisbech); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) 1141

ISLAND OF CUMBRAE STEAMER SERVICE.—Questions, Mr. Lamont (Buteshire), Mr. Rainy (Kilmarnock Burghs), and Mr. Clynes (Manchester, N.E.); Answers, Mr. Lloyd-George 1141

LONDON TRAMWAY SERVICE.—Question, Dr. Cooper; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1142

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.—Question, Mr. Barran (Leeds, N.); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1142

THE "VADERLAND"—REFUSAL TO SEND INFORMATION BY WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 1143

CAPE MAILS.—Question, Mr. H. D. McLaren (Staffordshire, W.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1144

June 28.] *Page*

SUNDAY POSTAL DELIVERIES IN SCOTLAND.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1144

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.—Questions, Mr. Claude Hay, Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley); Answers, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1145

GLASGOW POST OFFICE MEDICAL OFFICERS.—Questions, Mr. Cleland (Glasgow, Bridgeton), Mr. Lamont (Buteshire). Mr. Watt (Glasgow College); Answers, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1145

ISLAND OF CUMBRAE STEAMERS.—Question, Mr. Lamont; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1145

EDUCATION BILL.—Questions, Mr. Staveley Hill (Staffordshire), Lord Balcarres, Sir E. Carson (Dublin University), and Mr. Hicks Beach (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury); Answers, The Secretary to the Board of Education (Mr. Lough, Islington, W.) 1147

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC TRUSTEE.—Question, Mr. J. Henderson (Aberdeenshire, W.); Answer, The Attorney-General (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.) .. 1148

ILLITERATE PETITIONERS.—Question, Mr. A. L. Stanley (Cheshire, Eddisbury); Answer, Mr. H. J. Wilson (Yorkshire, W.R., Holmfirth) 1148

SHREWSBURY MUNICIPAL CHARITIES.—Question, Mr. Billson (Staffordshire, N.W.); Answer, Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) 1149

IRISH CONVICTS—PETITIONS FOR RELEASE.—Questions, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.) Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answers, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Cherry, Liverpool, Exchange) 1149

IRISH MAGISTRATES.—Question, Mr. Duffy (Galway, S.); Answer, Mr. Cherry .. 1150

SIR ANTONY MACDONNELL.—Question, Mr. Ginnell (Westmeath, N.) and Mr. Kilbride (Kildare, S.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.) 1151

THE ROYAL CANAL.—Questions, Mr. Ginnell; Answers, Mr. Bryce 1151

JUDICIAL LAND COMMISSIONER.—Questions, Mr. Ginnell, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.), and Mr. William O'Brien (Cork); Answers, Mr. Bryce.. .. 1152

AMERICAN BACON IMPORTS.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1153

MORLEY ESTATE, COUNTY CAVAN.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1153

SLIGO AND LEITRIM EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr. P. A. McHugh (Sligo, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1154

PHIBB'S ESTATE, TUBBERCURRY.—Questions, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answers, Mr. Bryce 1154

BELFAST POLICE INQUIRY.—Question, Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1156

June 15.] *Page*

IRISH LABOURERS' ACT RETURNS.—Question, Mr. Flavin; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 1156

BI-LINGUAL TEACHING.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1156

LOANS FOR WORKMEN'S HOUSES IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Barrie (Londonderry, N.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, S.) 1157

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS CONSOLIDATION BILL.—Question Mr. Beck (Cambridgeshire, Wisbech); Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 1157

SEA EROSION.—Questions, Mr. Beckett (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby), and Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1158

CENTRAL UNEMPLOYED COMMITTEE.—Question, Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1158

EDUCATION BILL.—PERSONNEL OF COMMISSION.—Questions, Mr. Hicks-Beach (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury); Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. 1158

Open Spaces Bill.—Reported from the Standing Committee on Law, etc., with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 225.] Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 225.]

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be taken into consideration upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 281.] 1159

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—Worcester Election, That they request that this House will be pleased to communicate to their Lordships copies of the minutes of the evidence taken at the trial of the Worcester Election Petition

Printed copy to be communicated 1160

WORCESTER ELECTION.—That they acquaint this House that they agree to the Address of this House to be presented to His Majesty respecting the Election and Return for the City of Worcester, and that they have filled up the blank with "Lords Spiritual and Temporal and" 1160

Post Office Sites Bill.—Reported from the Select Committee. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 226.]

Bill, as amended, re-committed to a Committee of the whole House for Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 284.] 1160

NEW BILLS.

Intestates Estates (Scotland) Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to the share of Intestate Husband's Estate falling to the widow," presented by Mr. Crombie; supported by Sir Henry Craik, Mr. Dundas White, Mr. Younger, and Mr. Eugene Wason; to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed. [Bill 282.] 1160

Intestates (Mothers) Moveable Succession (Scotland) Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to the share of an Intestate's Estate falling to the Mother," presented by Mr. Crombie; supported by Sir Henry Craik, Mr. Dundas White, Mr. Younger, and Mr. Eugene Wason; to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed. [Bill 283.] 1160

June 28.] *Page*

SUPPLY [14TH ALLOTTED DAY]

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1906–7.—CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That a sum not exceeding £110,146, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Agriculture and other Industries and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and of the services administered by the Department, including sundry Grants in Aid."

Mr. Conor O'Kelly (*Mayo, W.*) 1161

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That a sum, not exceeding £110,046, be granted for the said Service.—(*Mr. Conor O'Kelly.*)

Mr. O'Dowd (*Sligo, S.*) 1171
Dr. Ambrose (*Mayo, W.*) 1174
Mr. Hayden (*Roscommon, S.*) 1177
Mr. Dolan (*Leitrim, N.*) 1181
Mr. Duffy (*Galway, S.*) 1183
Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (*Kerry, W.*) 1185
Mr. T. W. Russell (*Tyrone, S.*) 1188
Mr. William Redmond (*Clare, E.*) 1193
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.*) 1198
Mr. William O'Brien (*Cork*) 1210

And, it being a quarter past Eight of the clock, and there being Private Business set down by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means under Standing Order No. 8, further Proceeding was postponed without Question put.

Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER).—Second Reading deferred till Monday, July 9th, at a quarter past Eight of the clock.

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1906–7.—CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That a sum, not exceeding £110,146, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Agriculture and other Industries and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and of the services administered by that Department, including sundry Grants in Aid."

Whereupon Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £110,046, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Conor O'Kelly.*)

Mr. Boland (*Kerry, S.*) 1212
Sir Thomas Esmonde (*Wexford, N.*) 1214
Mr. Farrell (*Longford, N.*) 1215
Mr. Brigg (*Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley*) 1216
Mr. Murphy (*Kerry, E.*) 1217
Mr. Barrie (*Londonderry, N.*) 1220
Mr. Verney (*Buckinghamshire. N.*) 1223
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 1224
Mr. T. W. Russell 1229
Mr. Hugh Law (*Donegal, W.*) 1230
Mr. Edward Barry (*Cork County, S.*) 1233
Mr. Byles (*Salford, N.*) 1234
Mr. Paul (*Northampton*) 1235

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

Musical Copyright Bill.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow 1236

Adjourned at four minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 29TH JUNE, 1906.

EARLDOM OF NORFOLK.—Message to the Commons for leave for the proper officer to attend the Committee for Privileges of this House in order to his being examined as a witness, and that he do bring with him the Journals of the House of Commons in order to their being produced before the said Committee 1237

The LORD CASTLEMAINE took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further

June 29.] *Page*

Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: St. John's (Westminster) Improvement; Cork City Railways and Works.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 1237

Midland Railway Bill.—The King's Consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1237

London and South-Western Railway Bill—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1237

Epsom and Ewell Gas Bill.—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1237

Uxbridge Gas Bill.—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1237

Waterford Corporation and Bridge Bill.—Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments 1237

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House 1237

Poole Corporation Water Bill.—Moved, That the order made on the 26th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2ª; agreed to; Bill read 2ª accordingly, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1237

London County Council (Money) Bill.—Moved, That the order made on the 26th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with; agreed to 1238

Barry Railway Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to 1238

Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill.—Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to 1238

London County Council (Money) Bill.—To be read 2ª on Thursday next.—(*The Chairman of Committees.*) 1238

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Water Provisional Order Bill.—Moved, That the order made on the 26th day of March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be now read 2ª; agreed to; Bills read 2ª accordingly 1238

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Read 3ª (according to order), and passed .. 1238

Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill.—House in Committee (according to order).—Bill reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived and Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next 1238

June 29.] *Page*

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. Committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next 1238

Water Provisional Order Bill.—Committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1238

Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) Bill (No. 145); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill (No. 146); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill (No. 147).—Brought from the Commons and read 1^a; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners 1238

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LUNACY.—Sixtieth Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy, 1906. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1239

PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BILL.—Thirty-first Annual Report of the Public Works Loan Board, 1905–1906; with appendices 1239

WOODS, FORESTS, AND LAND REVENUES.—Eighty-fourth Report of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, dated 29th June, 1906 1239

POST OFFICE (MONEY ORDERS).—The Money Order Amendment (No. 1) Regulations, 1906, dated 22nd June, 1906.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1239

METROPOLITAN AMBULANCE SERVICE.—Petition for inquiry as to desirability of; of borough of Kensington; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1239

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (No. 2) BILL.—Read 3^a (according to order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 1239

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS BILL.—Read 3^a (according to order), with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons 1239

ARMY QUALIFYING EXAMINATION.

The Earl of Mayo 1239
The Under-Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Portsmouth*) 1340

SOUTH AFRICAN LABOUR.

Lord Harris 1240
The Secretary of State for the Colonies (*The Earl of Elgin*) 1244

House adjourned at five minutes past Five o'clock, till Monday next, Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 29TH JUNE, 1906.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:—Nettlebed and District Commons (Preservation) Bill [Lords]; Ritz Hotel, Limited, Bill [Lords]; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 1247

Cambrian Railways Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1247

Bury Corporation Bill [LORDS]; Clacton Urban District Council Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time 1247

Newport Harbour Commissioners Bill [LORDS]; Railway Clearing System (Superannuation Fund) Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1248

Sheffield District Railway Bill [LORDS] (BY ORDER).—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1248

Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) Bill.—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 3) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed .. 1248

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill.—As amended, considered, read the third time, and passed 1248

Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill.—Reported, with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1248

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP H).—Mr. MOONEY reported from the Committee on Group H of Private Bills, That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the Clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 1248

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to:—Indian Railways Act Amendment Bill; Education of Defective Children (Scotland) Bill; North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill; Brixham Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill, without Amendment.

Kettering Water Bill—With Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, relating to Bolsover and District Water, Great Grimsby Gas, Great Grimsby Water, Hoylake and West Kirby Water, Wath-upon-Dearne and District Gas, and Wollaston Gas." [Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, relating to Charing Gas, Chichester Gas, Corsham Gas, Farnham Gas, and King's Lynn Gas." [Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, relating to Newport Pagnell Gas, Pontardulais Gas, Raunds Gas, Redditch Gas, and Saint Austell Gas." [Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, relating to Herne Bay Water, Maidstone Water, Mid-Kent Water, Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water, Sleaford and District Water, and Slough Water." [Water Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under The Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, The Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act, 1890, and The Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act, 1902, relating to Bellshill, Blantyre, Bothwell, Dunfermline and District, Dunoon, Fochabers, Inveresk, Shettleston, and Tollcross, and Uddingston." [Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for confirming an agreement between the right hon. Godfrey Charles, Viscount Tredegar, and the trustees of his settled estates, and the Alexander (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Company, for the conveyance to the Company of lands forming part of the settled estates; and an Agreement between the Company and Lord Tredegar for the issue to Lord Tredegar of a sum of £100,000 Preferred Ordinary Stock of the Company; for authorising the trustees of the settled estates to purchase from Lord Tredegar a sum of £25,000, part of such last-mentioned Preferred Ordinary Stock; and for other purposes." [Lord Tredegar's Supplemental Estate Bill [Lords.]

EARLDOM OF NORFOLK.—That they request that this House will be pleased to give leave to the proper officer of this House to attend, in order to his being examined as a Witness before the Committee for Privileges, and to bring with him the Journals of this House in order to their being produced before the said Committee 1248

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [LORDS],—Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 286] 1250

June 29.] *Page*

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 287] 1250

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 288] 1250

Water Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 289] 1250

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 290] 1250

Lord Tredegar's Supplemental Estate Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 1250

PETITIONS.

Betting and Gambling.—Petitions from Hyde, for legislation; to lie upon the Table 1251

Dublin Civil Bill Court Amendment Bill.—Petition from Dublin, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1251

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Petitions against; from Alvaston and Boulton; Bylchan, Denbigh, and other places in the Diocese of St. Asaph; Cholsey (two); Newport; Rhiw; and Wylam; to lie upon the Table 1251

Education (England and Wales) Bill (Religious Teaching).—Petitions against alteration of Law; from Beccles; Biddenham; Clophill; Dacre and Soulby; Newbiggin; Podington; Sedgefield; Stamton; and Upperthong (two); to lie upon the Table 1251

Infant Life Protection.—Petitions for alteration of Law; from Stone; and Whitby; to lie upon the Table 1251

Land Values Taxation, etc. (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from Glasgow, against; to lie upon the Table 1251

Poisons and Pharmacy Bill [Lords].—Petitions for alteration; from Glasgow; Manchester; and Whitby; to lie upon the Table 1251

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Sugar Convention (No. 5), 1906).—Copy presented, of Report of Proceedings of the International Sugar Commission, Spring Session, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1251

Public Works Loan Board.—Copy presented, Thirty-first Annual Report (for 1905–6), with Appendices [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 227] 1252

June 29.] *Page*

WOODS, FORESTS, AND LAND REVENUES.—Copy presented, of Eighty-fourth Report of the Commissioners, dated June 29th, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 228] 1252

ISLE OF MAN.—Account presented, of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ended March 31st, 1906, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 229] 1252

POST OFFICE (MONEY ORDERS).—Copy presented, of the Postal Order (Inland) Amendment (No. 1) Regulations, 1906, dated June 22nd, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1252

INCLOSURES (COUNTY OF NORFOLK).—Return ordered, "showing (1) the number of Inclosures of common land made under the Inclosure Acts from 1845 to 1899 in the County of Norfolk; (2) list of parishes within which such lands are wholly or partly situate; (3) total acreage of such Inclosures; (4) average acreage of such inclosures" (*Mr. Winfrey.*) 1252

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

DISMISSAL OF IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1252

RATEABLE VALUE AND INCOME TAX ON BASS'S, ALLSOPP'S, AND GUINNESS'S BREWERY.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1253

TRANSPORTATION OF UNEMPLOYED TO THE COLONIES.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1255

REPORT OF MOTOR CARS COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. Younger (Ayr Burghs); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1255

OUTBREAK OF OPHTHALMIA AT RUGBY.—Question, Mr. R. Pearce (Staffordshire, Leek); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1255

INCREASE OF RATES BETWEEN NEWHAVEN AND DIEPPE).—Question, Sir John Brunner (Cheshire, Northwich); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1255

BOARD OF EDUCATION LIBRARY CATALOGUE.—Question, Mr. Thomasson (Leicester); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1256

ORANGE PROCESSIONS AT CARRICKMORE.—Question, Mr. Murnaghan (Tyrone, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1257

Elections (Meetings in Schoolrooms) Bill [LORDS].—Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 285] 1257

Land Tenure Bill.—As amended (by the Standing Committee) further considered.

Sir Frederick Banbury (*City of London*) 1257
Mr. Gardner (*Berkshire, Wokingham*) 1258

June 29.] *Page*

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, to leave out sub-section (1) of Clause 1."—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out, to the end of page 1, line 17, stand part of the Bill."

Sir Edward Strachey (*Somersetshire, S.*) 1259
The Solicitor-General for Scotland (*Mr. Ure, Linlithgowshire*) 1261
Sir E. Carson (*Dublin University*) 1261
The Solicitor-General (*Sir W. Robson, South Shields*) 1262
Colonel Lockwood (*Essex, Epping*) 1263
Mr. Walter Long (*Dublin County, S.*) 1263
Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (*Shropshire, Newport*) 1265
Mr. Abel Smith (*Hertfordshire, Hertford*) 1265
Mr. Courthope (*Sussex, Rye*) 1266

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 226 ; Noes, 74. (Division List No. 167.)

Colonel Kenyon-Slaney 1269

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 21, after the word 'tenant,' to insert the words 'desirous of farming in accordance with the custom of the country.' "—(*Colonel Kenyon-Slaney.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Soares (*Devonshire, Barnstaple*) 1272
Mr. Lambton (*Durham, S.E.*) 1272
Mr. Brace (*Glamorganshire, S.*) 1272
Lord Helmsley (*Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk*) 1273
Mr. Nussey (*Pontefract*) 1273
Sir H. Aubrey-Fletcher (*Sussex, Lewes*) 1274
Mr. Munro Ferguson (*Leith Burghs*) 1275
Mr. George Faber (*Yorkshire*) 1276

Mr. SOARES rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 270 ; Noes, 68. (Division List No. 168.)

Question put accordingly, "That those words be inserted in the Bill."

The House divided :—Ayes, 67 ; Noes, 269. (Division List No. 169.)

Mr. Abel Smith 1283
Mr. Laurence Hardy (*Kent, Ashford*) 1285

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, to leave out sub-section (2) of Clause 1."—(*Mr. Abel Smith.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out, to 'contract' in page 1, line 24, stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Soares 1286
Mr. Gardner (*Berkshire, Wokingham*) 1288
Colonel Harrison-Broadley (*Yorkshire, E.R., Howdenshire*) 1289
Mr. Everett (*Suffolk, Woodbridge*) 1290
Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (*Lanarkshire, N.W.*) 1290
Lord Turnour (*Sussex, Horsham*) 1291
Mr. Walter Long 1292
Mr. Bertram (*Hertfordshire, Hitchin*) 1292
Mr. Courthope (*Sussex, Rye*) 1293
Mr. Cawley (*Lancashire, Prestwich*) 1293
Mr. Hicks-Beach (*Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury*) 1293
Mr. Courtney Warner (*Staffordshire, Lichfield*) 1294
Mr. Seddon (*Lancashire, Newton*) 1294
Captain Balfour (*Middlesex, Hornsey*) 1296
Mr. Guest (*Cardiff District*) 1295
Sir E. Carson 1297
Lord Willoughby de Eresby (*Lincolnshire, Horncastle*) 1298

Mr. WINFREY rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 312 ; Noes, 85. (Division List No. 170.)

Question put accordingly, "That the words proposed to be left out, to the word 'contract,' in page 1, line 24, stand part of the Bill."

The House divided :—Ayes, 292 ; Noes, 112. (Division List No. 171.)

Mr. Cochrane 1307

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 24, after the word 'or' to insert the words 'under any.'"—(*Mr. Cochrane.*)

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

Mr. Soares 1308
Colonel Kenyon-Slaney 1308
Mr. Shackleton (*Lancashire, Clitheroe*) 1309
Mr. Lambton 1310
Mr. Walter Long 1310

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 93 ; Noes, 301. (Division List No. 172.)

Sir E. Carson 1313

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 54, after the word 'tenancy' to insert the words 'relating to compensation for improvements.'"—(*Sir Edward Carson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Sir W. Robson 1315
Sir Frederick Banbury 1316

Mr. SOARES rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 319 ; Noes, 85. (Division List No. 173.)

Question put accordingly, "That the words 'relating to compensation for improvements' be there inserted.'"

The House divided :—Ayes, 88 ; Noes, 304. (Division List No. 174.)

Mr. SOARES claimed, "That the Question, 'That the Words of the Bill to the end of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill,' be now put."

Question put, "That the Question, 'That the words of the Bill to the end of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill,' be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 296 ; Noes, 80. (Division List No. 175.)

Question put accordingly, "That the words of the Bill down to the end of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

The House divided :—Ayes, 290 ; Noes, 74. (Division List No. 176.)

And, it being after Five of the clock, further consideration of the Bill, as amended, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended (by the Standing Committee), to be further considered upon Wednesday next.

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 3, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty-one minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 2ND JULY, 1906.

LORD GRAVES (CLAIM TO VOTE).—Committee for Privileges met. Counsel heard to open the case on behalf of the claimant. Witnesses examined. The Attorney-General and the Attorney-General for Ireland appearing on behalf of the Crown; the Attorney-General for Ireland heard. Claim considered. Then it was resolved that the Petitioner, Henry Cyril Percy Graves, Lord Graves, Baron of Gravesend in the Peerage of Ireland, hath made out his claim to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland; the report thereof to be made to the House 1333

LORD GRAVES (CLAIM TO VOTE). The evidence taken before the Committee for Privileges to be printed. (No. 148) 1333

EARLDOM OF NORFOLK.—Committee for Privileges met. Counsel heard to open the case on behalf of the claimant, Lord Mowbray. Committee adjourned to Thursday next. 1333

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill.—Witnesses ordered to attend the Select Committee 1333

Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Railway Bill.—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 15th of June and Monday last discharged, and Bill committed for To-morrow 1333

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill.—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the Opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 21st of June and Monday last discharged, and Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House 1333

Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]—Reported from the Select Committee with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow 1333

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Bill.—Moved, That the order made on the 26th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2 ; agreed to. Bill read accordingly, and committed 1334

Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [H.L.].—Read 3 , and passed, and sent to the Commons 1334

Metropolitan Railway Bill—Read 3 , with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 1334

Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 3) Bill—Brought from the Commons 1334

Great Northern Railway Bill.—Brought from the Commons, read 1ª; and referred to the Examiners 1334

July 2.] *Page*

Cambrian Railways Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to .. 1334

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1 Bill.—Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. House in Committee (according to order); Bills reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3^{a} To-morrow 1334

Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill.—Read 3^{a} (according to order), and passed 1334

Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 3) Bill.—Brought from the Commons and read 1^{a}; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 149) 1334

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Board of Education.—Regulations for the training of teachers and for the examination of students in training colleges 1334

Trade Reports: Annual Series.

No. 3658. Roumania (Constantza).

No. 3659. United States (New Orleans).

No. 3660. Corea.

No. 3661. China (Tientsin). 1335

Osborne.—Report by the House Governour and Medical Superintendent, for the year ended 31st March, 1906 1335

Commercial No. 5 (1906).—International Sugar Commission, Spring Session, 1906. Report of Proceedings (in continuation of "Commercial No. 3. (1906)") 1335

Judicial Statistics (Ireland) 1905.

Part II. Civil Statistics.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1335

Post Office Savings Banks.—Accounts of all deposits received and paid during the year ended 31st December, 1905; together with a statement showing the aggregate amount of the liabilities of the Government to depositors in the Post Office Savings Banks on 31st December, 1905, and the nature and amount of the securities held by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt to meet those liabilities at that date 1335

Superannuation.—Treasury Minute, dated 28th June, 1906, declaring that Edward Wallace, boy, Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield, War Office, was appointed without a Civil Service certificate through inadvertence on the part of the head of his department.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table .. 1335

Bills of Exchange [H.L.]

Lord Avebury 1335

Order for resuming the debate, on the Motion for the Second Reading To-morrow, discharged; and Bill, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE COLONIES AND THE MERCHANT SERVICE.

Lord Muskerry 1336
The Earl of Granard 1336

RAFTS IN THE PACIFIC.

Lord Muskerry 1337
The Earl of Granard 1337

THE TURKISH CUSTOMS DUTIES.

Lord Newton 1338
The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*Lord Fitzmaurice*) .. 1343
Lord Sanderson 1352
The Marquess of Lansdowne 1354
The Marquess of Ripon 1359

THE NAVAL VISIT TO RUSSIA.

The Earl of Jersey 1360
Lord Heneage 1361
Lord Muskerry 1363
Lord Ellenborough 1364
Lord Nunburnholme 1364
Lord Fitzmaurice 1365

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Seven o'clock, till to-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 2ND JULY, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.—MR. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from the Judges appointed to try the several Election Petitions the Certificate and Report relating to the Election for the South Eastern or Bodmin Division of the County of Cornwall.

And the said Certificate and Report from Mr. Justice Grantham and Mr. Justice Lawrance, Judges of the High Court of Justice, were ordered to be entered in the Journals of this House.

Copy of Shorthand Writer's Notes of Judgment and Evidence laid upon the Table by Mr. Speaker 1366

July 2.] *Page*

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.—Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from the Judges appointed to try the several Election Petitions the following Certificate and Report relating to the Election for the Attercliffe Division of the City of Sheffield.

And the said Certificate and Report from Mr. Justice Grantham and Mr. Justice Walton, Judges of the High Court of Justice, were ordered to be entered in the Journals of this House.

Copy of Shorthand Writer's Notes of Judgment and Evidence laid upon the Table by Mr. Speaker 1368

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [LORDS] (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz.:—Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Devon, &c.) Bill [LORDS]; Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 1) Bill [Lords]; Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesteven, etc.) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time to-morrow 1369

Merthyr Tydfil Gas Bill.—Lords' Amendments considered, and agreed to .. 1370

Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Bill [LORDS].—Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies Bill [Lords].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1370

Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with an Amendment 1370

Trent Navigation Company Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1370

County of Durham Electric Power Supply Bill [LORDS]; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed .. 1370

Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Bill [LORDS]; to be read a second time to-morrow 1370

Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [LORDS].—Read a second time, and committed. 1370

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table Bill, as amended, to be considered to-morrow 1370

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill, without Amendment.

Municipal Corporations Bill, with an Amendment.

July 2.] *Page*

Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the construction of further waterworks and the taking of water from the River Bure for the purpose of affording increased supplies of water by the Great Yarmouth Waterworks Company and the Lowestoft Water and Gas Company, and to confer further powers upon those companies with reference to their respective undertakings; and for other purposes." [Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [Lords] 1370

Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 1371

Railway Bills (Group 8).—Sir Louis MacIver reported from the Committee on Group 8 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Wednesday, at Twelve of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 1371

Great Northern Railway Bill.

Colonel Lockwood (*Essex, Epping*) 1371

Bill read a third time, and passed 1371

PETITIONS.

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Petitions against; From Allerton, Bywater, and Castleford; Allhallows; Amble; Beech Hill; Harwich; and, Newcastle-on-Tyne; to lie upon the Table 1371

Education (England and Wales) Bill (Religious Teaching).—Petitions against alteration of Law; From Brierley Hill (two); and, Tansley; to lie upon the Table 1372

Land Tenure Bill.—Petition from Stirling, against; to lie upon the Table .. 1372

Land Values Taxation, &c. (Scotland) Bill.—Petition from Stirling, against; to lie upon the Table 1372

Public Expenditure.—Petition from Sydenham and Forest Hill, for reduction to lie upon the Table 1372

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Criminal and Judicial Statistics (Ireland).—Copy presented, of Criminal and Judicial Statistics of (Ireland) for the year 1905. Part II. Civil Statistics [by Command); to lie upon the Table 1372

Post Office Savings Banks.—Accounts presented, of all Deposits received and paid during the year ended December 31st, 1905, together with a Statement showing the aggregate amount of the liabilities of the Government to Depositors in the Post Office Savings Banks on December 31st, 1905, and the nature and amount of the Securities held by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt to meet those Liabilities at that date [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 230] 1372

July 2.] *Page*

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated June 28th, 1906, declaring that Edward Wallace, Boy, Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield War Office, was appointed with a Civil Service Certificate, through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1372

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3658 and 3661 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1372

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of Regulations for the Training of Teachers and for the Examination of Students in Training Colleges [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1373

OSBORNE.—Copy presented, of Report by the House Governor and Medical Superintendent at Osborne for the year ending March 31st, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1373

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

1. Richmond Bridge, Cash Account for the year 1905 [by Act].

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 TO 1902 (APPLICATIONS AND APPEALS TO BOARD OF TRADE).—Return ordered, "respecting the Applications to and Proceedings of the Board of Trade upon Applications for Provisional Orders and Appeals to the Board of Trade, respecting Electricity Undertakings for Session 1896 to Session 1905 (both inclusive):—

1. Applications for Provisional Orders under the Electric Lighting Acts, Session 1896 to Session 1905 (both inclusive):—

Section 1. In respect of areas in the administrative county of London.

Section 2. In respect of other areas.

Session.	Number of Applications.		Number of Orders granted.		Number subsequently transferred—	
	Local Authorities.	Companies.	Local Authorities.	Companies.	To Local Authorities.	To Companies.

Session.	List of Cases in which Local Authority consent was dispensed with.	List of Cases in which Orders were refused to Companies on Opposition of Local Authority.	List of Cases in which competing Applications were made by Local Authority and a Company, with result.	List and particulars of Cases in which Promoters declined to accept an Order on account of conditions imposed by Board of Trade.

2. Appeals to Board of Trade in regard to works during ten years ended March, 1906:—

Section 1. Administrative county of London—
(a) by local authorities;
(b) by companies.

Section 2. Other Areas—
(a) by local authorities;
(b) by companies.

Date of Appeal.	Order.	Name and Description of Applicant.	Object of Appeal.	State if Appeal was Opposed or Approved by Local Authorities.	Decision of Board of Trade.

3. Applications and Appeals to Board of Trade in regard to change of pressure during ten years ended March, 1906:—

Section 1. Administrative county of London—
(a) by local authorities;
(b) by companies.

Section 2. Other areas—
(a) by local authorities;
(b) by companies.

Date of Application or Appeal.	Order.	Name and Description of Applicant.	State if Opposed or Approved by Local Authority.	Decision of Board of Trade.	Actual Pressure—	
					At date of Application.	As Altered.

4. Applications by local authorities for approval of Board of Trade in regard to hours of access to street boxes during ten years ended March, 1906:—

Section 1. Administrative county of London.

Section 2. Other areas.

Date of Application.	Order.	Name and Description of Applicant.	Decision of Board of Trade.

—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

2

July 2.] *Page*

Railways in British Protectorates, Leased Territories, and Colonies (other than the Transvaal and Orange River Colony) not possessing responsible Institutions, Address for "Return showing (1) the ownership and length of the Railways (a) in operation, (b) under construction, (c) authorised; (2) the methods, including State guarantees, if any, by which the funds for the construction of the Railways have been or are being raised; (3) the total capital expenditure incurred or authorised, together with the latest figures as to the gross annual revenue derived from the existing lines of Railway, and the corresponding working expenses."—(*Mr. Walker.*) .. 1373

VOLUNTEER BRIGADES.—Address for "Return of the distribution of Provincial Volunteer Corps into Brigades and of the names of the officers appointed to command the Volunteer Provincial Brigades, showing their present age, place of residence, and their antecedent service either with the regular Army, the Militia, or the Volunteer Force, and the military scientific training they have passed through, such as the Staff College, the Royal Military Academies, or the School of Musketry."—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*) 1375

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF WORKMEN FROM CHATHAM DOCKYARD.—Question, Mr. E. H. Lamb (Rochester); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1374

SICK PAY FOR MR. CARMODY, SORTER AT MOUNT PLEASANT PARCEL OFFICE.—Question, Mr. J. P. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1377

POST OFFICE SERVANTS—ENTRIES ON DEFAULTER SHEETS.—Question, Mr. J. P. Nannetti; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1377

REPORT OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON DEATH DUTIES.—Question, Mr. Sears (Cheltenham); Answer, Mr. Asquith 1378

REX *v.* WATT—COST OF DEPORTATION OF THE WITNESS SHUTTLE.—Question, Mr. Bottomley (Hackney, S.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1378

COMMISSION OF THE PEACE—FEES AND STAMPS DUTIES.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answer, Sir John Walton.. 1378

KEW GARDEN EMPLOYEES—RIGHT OF COMBINATION.—Question, Mr. Summerbell (Sunderland); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 1379

IMPORTATION OF LIVE CATTLE FOR IMMEDIATE SLAUGHTER—SUGGESTED REMOVAL OF RESTRICTION.—Question, Dr. Cooper (Southwark, Bermondsey); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 1379

INDIAN ARMY OFFICERS AND SERVICE WITH MILITIA DURING SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.—Question, Mr. Smeaton (Stirlingshire); Answer, Mr. Morley .. 1380

INDIAN EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURE.—Question, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.); Answer, Mr. Morley 1381

ALLEGED WRONGFUL IMPRISONMENT OF RYOTS AT BACKERGUNJ.—Question, Mr. O'Grady; Answer, Mr. Morley 1381

IRISH SOCIETY AND THE PROFESSOR OF IRISH AT TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1381

July 2.] *Page*

Erection of Labourers Cottages.—Question, Mr. P. A. MacHugh (Sligo, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1382

Sale of Estates in County Sligo.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1383

The De Freyne Estate—Construction of a Road to the Village of Sheepwalk.—Question, Mr. James O'Keilly (Roscommon, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1383

Evicted Tenant on the Madden Estate—Case of M. A. Kiernan.—Question, Mr. T. Smyth (Leitrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1384

Withdrawal of Grant from Corlea School.—Question, Sir E. Carson (Dublin University); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1384

Refusal of Chief Secretary to Receive a Deputation from Irish Protestant Teachers Union.—Question, Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1385

Evicted Tenants in County Kerry.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1385

Purchase of Mr. Walsh's Estate at Castletown, County Kilkenny.—Question, Mr. O'Mara (Kilkenny, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1386

King's Scholar's Examination—Books Recommended.—Question, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1386

Cases of James Clancy and William Francis—Award of Arbitrator.—Question, Mr. Ffrench (Wexford, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1387

Condition of Terryglass (County Tipperary) Graveyard.—Question, Mr. Hogan (Tipperary, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1387

Labourers Cottages at Athenry.—Question, Mr. Duffy (Galway, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1388

Purchases of Untenanted Land on the Cusack Estate.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1389

Distribution of Bog on the Granard Estate.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1389

Elephant Marsh Game Reserve, Central Africa.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1389

Kaffirs Employed in the Transvaal.—Question, Mr. Lea (St. Pancras, S.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1390

Extension of Railway from Djibuli to Hanar.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1390

Small Holdings Committee — Witnesses from Caithness. — Question, Mr. R. L. Harmsworth (Caithness); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey .. 1391

July 2] *Page*

CAMBRIDGE COTTAGE, KEW.—Question, Capt. Balfour (Middlesex, Hornsey); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 1391

RETURN OF BATTLESHIPS.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1392

AMERICAN GAMBLING OPERATIONS IN TIN—DANGER TO HOME TRADE.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Lloyd George .. 1392

GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY AND MR. PETER DOWLING'S WATER SUPPLY.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1393

DANGER FROM SPARKS FROM ENGINES ON THE GREAT SOUTHERN AND WESTERN RAILWAY (IRELAND).—Question, Mr. Delany; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George .. 1393

STATE GRANT TO CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN MANCHESTER, PRESTON, SOUTHAMPTON AND BRISTOL.—Question, Mr. J. O'Donnell (Newington, Walworth); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1394

PENSIONS WITHHELD FROM INMATES OF IRISH LUNATIC ASYLUMS.—Question, Mr. Cogan (Wicklow, E.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1394

LOANS UNDER THE HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACT.—Question, Mr Armitage (Leeds, Central); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1395

ASSAULTS BY NATIVES ON BRITISH SOLDIERS STATIONED IN THE HIMALAYAS.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Morley 1395

HARBOUR IMPROVEMENTS AT WICKLOW, ARKLOW AND PORTAVOGIE.—Question, Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1396

MULLARANNY AND BELMULLET RAILWAY—INTENTION OF THE GOVERNMENT.—Question, Mr. Walter Long; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1396

EXTENSION OF CAVAN AND LEITRIM RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Walter Long; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1396

HILLAS ESTATE, TEMPLEBAY—CASE OF PATRICK FOLEY.—Question, Mr. P. A. McHugh; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1397

PURCHASE OF ERRIEFF GRAZING FARM.—Question, Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1397

SUGGESTED WITHDRAWAL OF GRANT FROM ROUGHFORT SCHOOL.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1398

DISMISSAL OF TEACHER OF ROUGHFORT NATIONAL SCHOOL.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1398

DAMAGE TO RATHLIN ISLAND FISHING GROUND BY STEAM TRAWLERS.—Question, Mr. Glendinning (Antrim, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1398

INCREMENT FOR TEACHER OF SCARTAGLIN NATIONAL SCHOOL, COUNTY KERRY.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1399

SOUTH AFRICAN MINEOWNERS AND PAYMENT OF THE WAR DEBT.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1399

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

OVERTIME IN THE ROYAL DOCKYARDS.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) 1400

NEW GERMAN BATTLESHIPS—COST OF GUN ARMAMENTS.—Questions, Mr. Ridsdale (Brighton), Mr. Cowan (Surrey, Guildford); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1400

TRADES UNION RATE OF WAGES IN THE ROYAL DOCKYARDS.—Question, Mr. Jenkins (Chatham); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1401

CHATHAM DOCKYARD.—Question, Mr. Jenkins; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1401

ROSYTH.—Question, Mr. Younger (Ayr Burghs); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1401

H.M.S. "MONTAGU."—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1402

COMMUTATION OF ARMY PENSIONS.—Question, Mr. Barker (Penryn and Falmouth); Answer, The Secretary for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) .. 1402

3RD INFANTRY BRIGADE, ALDERSHOT—D. BREMNER'S DEFERRED PAY.—Question, Mr. Clavell Salter (Hants, Basingstoke); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. 1403

TRAINING OF IRISH ARMY CANDIDATES.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1405

ARMY NURSING SERVICE—Question, Mr. Morton (Sutherland); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1405

CASON MINE MANAGER.—Questions, Sir John Kennaway (Devonshire, Honiton), Mr. Gibbs (Bristol, W.), Sir Gilbert Parker, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (Leicester); Answers, Mr. Churchill 1405

CEYLON PEARL FISHERIES.—Questions, Mr. Menzies (Lanarkshire, S.), Mr. J. D. White (Dumbartonshire); Answers, Mr. Churchill 1407

NATIVE LABOUR FOR THE TRANSVAAL MINES.—Questions, Mr. Mackarness (Berkshire Newbury), Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend), Mr. Rees (Montgomery Burghs); Answers, Mr. Churchill 1409

SOUTH AFRICAN IMPORT DUTIES.—Question, Mr. Stuart Samuel (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1410

THE COURT MARTIAL ON NATAL NATIVES.—Question, Mr. Mackarness; Answer, Mr. Churchill 1410

SHANGHAI ADMINISTRATION.—Question, Mr. D. Davies (Montgomeryshire); Answer, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick) 1411

THE DENSHAWI EXECUTIONS.—Questions, Mr. Reddy (King's County, Birr), Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.), Mr. Meyer (Lambeth, N.), Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.), Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.), Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.), Mr. J. D. White (Dumbartonshire); Answers, Sir Edward Grey 1411

July 2.] *Page*

CHINESE CUSTOMS.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale ; Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. 1414

BAHR-EL-GHAZEL.—Questions, Mr. Lonsdale, Lord Turnour (Sussex, Horsham) ; Answers, Sir Edward Grey 1414

UNREST IN THE EUPHRATES VALLEY.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale ; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1415

THE ALAND ISLANDS.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale ; Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. 1415

THE ALGECIRAS PROTOCOL.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale ; Answer, Sir E. Grey .. 1415

VACCINATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES—CAPTAIN GRAVENER, J.P.—Question, Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) ; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 1416

ANARCHIST WRITINGS.—Question, Sir W. Evans-Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) ; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1416

VIVISECTION.—Sir Philip Magnus (London University) ; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1417

CARADOC MINE DISASTER.—Question, Colonel Herbert (Monmouthshire, S.) ; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1418

BRITISH RAILWAY RATES FOR TIMBER.—Question, Mr. D. Davies ; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Burghs) 1418

COMPANY RETURNS.—Questions, Mr. Barron (Leeds, N.) ; Answers, Mr. Lloyd-George 1418

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Paul (Northampton) ; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1419

THE SALISBURY RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—Questions, Mr. Dalziel (KirkcaldyBurghs) and Mr. Wardle (Stockport) ; Answers, Mr. Lloyd-George 1420

COMMISSION ON LIGHTING COASTS AND HARBOURS.—Question, Mr. George Gibbs ; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1420

MERCHANDISE MARKS.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central) Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1421

SPOTTED FEVER IN GLASGOW.—Question, Mr. C. E. Schwann (Manchester, N.) ; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 1421

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH AND VACCINATION.—Question, Mr. Lupton ; Answer, Mr. John Burns 1422

KENTISH LANDOWNERS AS LAND GRABBERS.—Question, Mr. Cox (Preston) ; Answer, Mr. Burns 1422

SALE OF TINNED MEATS.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) ; Answer, Mr. John Burns 1423

July 2.]

Page

Royal Commission on Motor Cars.—Question, Mr. Everett (Suffolk, Woodbridge); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1423

Hyndburn Park School, Accrington.—Question, Mr. Gilbert Parker; Answer, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 1423

School Buildings Maintenance.—Question, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1424

Teachers' Religious Tests.—Questions, Dr. Macnamara; Answers, Mr. Birrell 1424

Teachers' Appointments and Dismissals.—Question, Dr. Macnamara; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1425

The Conscience Clause.—Question, Dr. Macnamara; Answer. Mr. Birrell 1425

Religious Instruction.—Question. Mr. T. M. Healy; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1425

Education Bill—Clause 8.—Questions, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool), Mr. Dillon, Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley); Mr. T. M. Healy; Answers, Mr. Birrell 1426

Education Bill—Clause 4.—Question, Colonel Walker (Lancashire, Widnes); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1427

British Mails by German Liner.—Questions, Mr. Charles Devlin (Galway); Answers, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 1428

Charing Cross Improvement.—Questions, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, The First Commissioner of Works (Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire) 1428

Skye Medical Officer.—Question, Mr. John Dewar (Inverness); Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 1429

Marine Biological Station, Millport.—Question, Mr. Gulland (Dumfries Burghs); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1429

Protection of Scottish Fisheries.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1430

Moray Firth Fishing Boats.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair .. 1430

Scottish Congested Districts Settlers.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1430

Crofters' Building Loans.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair .. 1431

Irish Lights Board.—Questions, Mr. Charles Devlin and Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answers, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Burghs) 1431

Tralee Post Office.—Question, Mr. Thomas O'Donnell; Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 1431

July 2] *Page*

Trawling.—Questions, Mr. Weir; Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 1432

Jewish Massacres in Russia.—Question, Mr. W. Evans Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1432

Punishments in Public.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1433

Wireless Telegraphy Bill.—Questions, Mr. Claude Hay; Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1433

Public Right of Way.—Questions, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald and Mr. Paulton (Durham, Bishop Auckland); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. 1433

Mr. Justice Grantham.—Question, Mr. Arkwright (Hereford); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1434

Education Bill—Personnel of Commission.—Question, Mr. Hicks Beach (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. 1434

Government Contracts—Fair Wage Clause.—Question, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1435

Colonial Independence.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1435

Coast Erosion Commission.—Question, Mr. Fenwick (Northumberland, Wansbeck); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1435

Selection (Standing Committees).—Sir William Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection: That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill: Mr. Henderson; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Barnes.

Report to lie upon the Table 1436

Local Government (Scotland) (No. 2 Bill).—Order for Committee upon Thursday read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn 1436

NEW BILLS.

Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland) Bill.—"To amend the Law regarding Ecclesiastical Assessments in Scotland," presented by Mr. M'Crae; supported by Mr. Munro Ferguson, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Eugene Wason, Mr. Sutherland, Mr. M'Callum, Mr. Rainy, and Mr. Gulland; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 291] 1436

Nurses Registration and Qualification Bill.—"To regulate the Qualifications and Registration of Trained Nurses," presented by Mr. Claude Hay supported by Sir Arthur Bignold and Mr. Findlay; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 292]. 1436

Parliamentary Elections Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to votes at Parliamentary Elections; and for other purposes," presented by Mr. John Robertson; supported by Mr. Burt, Mr. Alden, Dr. Rutherford, Mr. Murray Macdonald, and Mr. Dalziel; to be read a second time upon Friday, July 20th and to be printed. [Bill 293] 1436

July 2.] *Page*

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 6 :-

Mr. Walters (Sheffield, Brightside) .. 1437

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 9, after the word 'the,' to insert the words 'obligation of a.' "—(*Mr. Walters.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) .. 1441
Sir Francis Powell (Wigan) .. 1446
Mr. Perks (Lincolnshire, Louth) .. 1447
Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.) .. 1448
Mr. Paul (Northampton) .. 1453
Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.) .. 1454
Mr. Myer (Lambeth, N.) .. 1458
Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool) .. 1459
Mr. Masterman (West Ham, N.) .. 1461
Sir William Anson (Oxford University) .. 1464
Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.) .. 1466
Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.) .. 1470
Mr. Brace (Glamorganshire, S.) .. 1474
Mr. J. M. Robertson (Northumberland, Tyneside) .. 1475
Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) .. 1479
Mr. H. R. Mansfield (Lincolnshire, Spalding) .. 1484
Mr. Samuel Roberts (Sheffield, Ecclesall) .. 1486
Mr. Rogers (Wiltshire, Devizes) .. 1487
Mr. G. Greenwood (Peterborough) .. 1490
Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.) .. 1493
Mr. Helme (Lancashire, Lancaster) .. 1494
Mr. Carlile (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) .. 1496
Mr. Soares (Devonshire, Barnstaple) .. 1499
Mr. Harwood (Bolton) .. 1501
Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley) .. 1502
Mr. Charles Hobhouse (Bristol, E.) .. 1503
Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington) .. 1504
Mr. Ashton (Bedfordshire, Luton) .. 1505
Mr. Clavell Salter (Hampshire, Basingstoke) .. 1506
Mr. Adkins (Lancashire, Middleton) .. 1507

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 267 ; Noes, 283. (Division List, No. 177.)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

July 2.] Page

Mr. Austin Taylor (Liverpool, East Toxteth) 1515
Mr. Wm. Redmond (Clare, E.) 1516
Mr. Paul (Northampton) 1518

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 294 ; Noes, 247. (Division List No. 178).

And, it being after eleven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again to-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Order (No 10) Bill (By Order).—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. C. E. Schwann (Manchester, N.) 1523
Mr. Kelley (Manchester, S. W.) 1525

Amendment proposed—

" To leave out the word ' now ' and at the end of the Question to add the words ' upon this day three months.' "—(*Mr. C. E. Schwann.*)

Question proposed, " That the word ' now ' stand part of the Question."

The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 1526
Mr. Scott (Ashton-under-Lyne) 1529
Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick) 1531
Mr. Byles (Salford, N.) 1531
Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.) 1532
Mr. Haworth (Manchester, S.) 1532
The Chairman of Ways and Means (Mr. Emmott, Oldham) 1533
Mr. Shackleton (Lancashire, Clitheroe) 1533
Mr. Horridge (Manchester, E.) 1534

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 202 ; Noes, 116. (Division List No. 179.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

Intermediate Board (Rules).

Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.) 1539
Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) 1541

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Rules of the Intermediate Board for the year 1907, sealed the 19th day of June, be disapproved of." —(*Mr. Thomas O'Donnell.*)

Mr. James Campbell (*Dublin University*) 1542
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.*) 1543
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 1547
Mr. T. W. Russell (*Tyrone, S.*) 1548
Mr. Gordon (*Londonderry, N.*) 1548
Mr. Morton (*Sutherlandshire*) 1549

Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 1549
Mr. Dodd (*Tyrone, N.*) 1550
Mr. Bryce 1551
Mr. T. L. Corbett (*Down, N.*) 1553

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 72 ; Noes, 118. (Division List No. 180.)

And, it being after half-past Eleven of the clock on Monday evening, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order.

Adjourned at twenty-seven minutes after Two o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 3RD JULY, 1906.

LORD GRAVES (CLAIM TO VOTE FOR REPRESENTATIVE PEERS FOR IRELAND).—Report from the Committee for Privileges that Henry Cyril Percy Graves, Lord Graves, Baron of Gravesend in the Peerage of Ireland, had made out his claim as Baron Graves to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland ; read, and agreed to ; and resolved and adjudged accordingly 1557

LORD GRAVES (CLAIM TO VOTE FOR REPRESENTATIVE PEERS FOR IRELAND).—Ordered, That the Claimant do pay all the expenses attending the taking and printing the evidence, and also the cost of the examination of the evidence by an examiner appointed by the Crown Agent 1557

The Lord Clonbrock took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

London Squares and Enclosures Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, That the Bill on being reported should be referred to the Chairman of Committees in order that certain proofs and consents may be given in respect thereof ; read and agreed to. The King's consent signified ; Bill reported from the Select Committee with Amendments ; and re-committed. 1557

London County Buildings Bill.—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1557

London United Tramways Bill.—The King's consent signified ; and Bill, Reported, with Amendments 1557

July 3.] *Page*

Cheltenham Gas Bill.—Metropolitan Water Board Bill; Peterborough Gas Bill; North East London Railway Bill.—Reported with Amendments .. 1557

Huddersfield Corporation Bill.—Macclesfield and District Tramways Bill; Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Railway Bill.—Reported, with Amendments 1557

South Surburban Gas Bill.—Reported, without Amendment 1558

Twickenham and Teddington Electric Supply Bill.—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 15th and 25th of June last discharged, and Bill committed. 1558

Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill.—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 21st and 25th of June last discharged, and Bill committed 1558

Ascot District Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill.—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 14th and 25th of June last discharged, and Bill committed 1558

Buckhaven, Methil, and Innerleven Burgh Extension Bill [H.L.]—Committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection .. 1558

St. John's (Westminster) Improvement Bill.—Moved, That the order made on the 26th day of March last, " That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2 agreed to: Bill read 2ª accordingly, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1558

Metropolitan District Railway Bill.—Read 3ª and passed 1558

Epsom and Ewell Gas Bill; Waterford Corporation and Bridge Bill—Read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons 1558

Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Bill [H.L.].—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments 1558

Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies Bill [H.L.]; Trent Navigation Company Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to 1558

Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]—Returned from the Commons agreed to, with an Amendment 1759

Merthyr Tydvil Gas Bill.—Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to 1559

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1ª) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed 1559

July 2.] *Page*

Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]—House in Committee (according to order). The Amendments proposed by the Select Committee made. Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next 1559

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order).—The Amendments proposed by the Select Committee made. Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next 1559

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill.—Brought from the Commons and read 1ª; to be printed and referred to the Examiners. (No. 151.) 1559

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.—Petitions in favour of denominational religious teaching in schools. Of teachers in schools at Shawforth——Facit——Cheetham Hill; of parents and guardians of children attending schools at Shawforth——Facit.

Read, and ordered to lie upon the Table 1559

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COMPANY LAW AMENDMENT COMMITTEE.—Report of the Company Law Amendment Committee 1559

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.—No. 3662. Sweden (Gothenburg).

Presented [by Command]; and ordered to lie upon the Table 1560

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES.—The Lord Wolverton discharged from serving on the Select Committee, and the Viscount Hutchinson (*E. Donoughmore*) named of the Committee in his place 1560

WORCESTER ELECTION.—The captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms to attend His Majesty with the address on the part of this House in the place of the Lord Steward 1560

CRIMINAL APPEAL BILL [H.L.].—Reported from the Standing Committee with further Amendments. The Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House, and by the Standing Committee to be received on Tuesday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 150) 1560

Ground Game Bill.—[SECOND READING].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

Lord Burghclere 1560

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2a."—(*Lord Burghclere.*)

The Earl of Onslow 1564
Lord Saltoun 1565
Lord Hamilton of Dalzell 1565
The Marquess of Lansdowne 1566
Lord James of Hereford 1567

On Question, Bill read 2ª accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

THE CONGO FREE STATE.

Lord Reay 1568
The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*Lord Fitzmaurice*) .. 1575
The Marquess of Lansdowne 1582
The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury 1587
The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 1588

House adjourned at ten minutes before Seven o'clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.]

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 3RD JULY, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (NO STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO APPLICABLE.—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiner of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders not previously inquired into are applicable, viz.:—Lord Tredegar's Supplemental Estate Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 1589

Bury Corporation Bill [LORDS].—Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1589

Clacton Urban District Council Bill [LORDS] (KING'S CONSENT SIGNIFIED).—Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1589

Newport Harbour Commissioners Bill [LORDS] (KING'S CONSENT SIGNIFIED).—Bill read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1590

Railway Clearing System (Superannuation Fund Bill [LORDS]; Sheffield District Railway Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments 1590

Great Central and Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast Railways Bill [LORDS]; Manchester Churches Bill [Lords]; Newtownards Urban District Council Bill [Lords].—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1590

Pennllwyn Railway and Road Bill [LORDS].—As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time 1590

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill.—As amended, considered; read the third time, and passed 1590

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Devon, etc.) Bill [Lords]; Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesterven, etc.) Bill [Lords]; Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 1) Bill [Lords].—Read a second time, and committed 1590

Newport Corporation Bill [Lords]. Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1590

South Lincolnshire Water Bill: reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1590

Private Bills (Group I).—Mr. Toulmin reported from the Committee on Group I of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Monday next, at half-past Eleven of the Clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 1590

Message from the Lords.—That they have agreed to—Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill, without Amendment; Metropolitan Railway Bill, with Amendments; Amendments to Cambrian Railways Bill [Lords], without Amendment 1590

Hammersmith, City, and North East London Railway Bill.

The Chairman of Ways and Means (*Mr. Emmott, Oldham*) 1591

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Promoters of the Hammersmith, City, and North East London Railway Bill which has been introduced into this House in the present session of Parliament, shall have leave to suspend any further proceedings thereon, in order to proceed with the same Bill, if they shall think fit, in the next session of Parliament, provided that notice of their intention to do so be lodged in the Private Bill Office not later than six o'clock on the day prior to the close of the present session, and that all fees due thereon up to that period be paid.

" That the money deposited in accordance with the Standing Orders of this House in respect of such Bill may thereupon be returned to the depositors.

" That the Promoters of such Bill may, on or before the 31st day of December next, deposit in the Private Bill Office an Estimate, signed by the person making the same, of the expense of the undertaking under the Bill, and, previously to the 15th day of January next, deposit a sum not less than five per centum on the amount of such Estimate with the Paymaster-General.

" That such Bill shall be referred to the Examiners, who shall certify whether or not the Promoters have made such deposit with the Paymaster-General, and, upon the Examiners certifying that such deposit has been made, that the proceedings on such Bill shall be *pro forma* only in regard to all other stages through which the same shall have passed in the present session and no new fees shall be charged in regard to such stages.

"That such Bill shall be deposited in the Private Bill Office not later than six o'clock on or before the third day on which the House shall sit in the next session of Parliament, with a declaration annexed thereto, signed by the agent stating that the Bill is the same in every respect as the Bill at the last stage of the proceedings thereon in this House in the present session.

"That if the money deposited in the present session, as required by Standing Order No. 57, in respect of such Bill has not been withdrawn as provided for by the preceding Resolutions, a certificate of that fact from the proper officer of the court in which such money was deposited shall accompany such declaration, and such Bill shall not be referred to the Examiners :

"That such Bill, indorsed by one of the Clerks in the Private Bill Office as having been duly deposited with such declaration and such certificate, if any, annexed, be laid by one of the clerks of that office upon the Table of the House in the next session of Parliament.

"That such Bill, so laid upon the Table, shall be deemed to have been read a first time.

"That the Standing Orders by which the proceedings on Bills are regulated, shall not apply to such Bill in regard to any of the stages through which the same shall have passed during the present session.

"That all Petitions presented in the present session against such Bill shall stand referred to the Committee on the Bill in the next session of Parliament, and that all notices and grounds of objections to the right of Petitioners to be heard, given in the present session within the time prescribed by the Rules of the Referees relating to such notices, shall be held applicable in the next session of Parliament.

"That no Petitioners shall be heard before the Committee on such Bill, unless their Petition shall have been presented within the time limited in the present session, or in respect of which Standing Order No. 128 has been dispensed with in the present session, or unless their Petition shall be presented on or before the 12th day of February, 1907."—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Mr. T. M. Healy (*Louth, N.*) 1593

And, it being Three of the clock, the Debate stood postponed until to-morrow, by the direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

PETITIONS.

Betting and Gambling.—Petition from Camberwell, for legislation; to lie upon the Table 1593

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Petitions against; from Bickershaw; Bishops Wood (two); Cottingham cum Middleton and Carlton; Hertfordshire; Measham; Newcastle-on-Tyne; Pudsey; and, Twyford; to lie upon the Table 1593

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Petition from Colchester, for alteration; to lie upon the Table 1593

Page

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).—Petitions against alteration of Law; from Clapton Common; Pinchbeck (two); and, Sutton Bonington; to lie upon the Table 1593

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.—Petition from Depwade, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 1593

LAND VALUES TAXATION, ETC. (SCOTLAND BILL).—Petition from Govan against; to lie upon the Table 1594

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].—Petitions for alteration; from Blackburn (two); Carnarvon; Kingston (Surrey); and, Leeds; to lie upon the Table 1594

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.—Petition from Depwade, against; to lie upon the Table 1594

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3662 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1594

UNTENANTED LANDS (IRELAND).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered March 27th; *Mr. Ginnell*]; to lie upon the Table 1594

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered May 2nd; *Mr. Dillon*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 231) 1594

PURCHASE INSPECTORS (IRELAND).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered May 8th; *Mr. Ginnell*]; to lie upon the Table 1594

COMPANY LAW AMENDMENT COMMITTEE.—Copy presented, of Report of the Company Law Amendment Committee, with Appendix [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1594

POST OFFICE (MONEY ORDERS).—Copy presented, of the Money Order Amendment (No. 1) Regulations, 1906, dated June 22nd, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1594

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS (REMUNERATION).—Committee to consider of authorising the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the Remuneration of Agricultural Analysts in pursuance of any Act of the present session to amend the Law with respect to the Sale of Agricultural Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (King's Recommendation signified), to-morrow (*Mr. Whiteley*) 1594

CORPOREAL PUNISHMENT.—Address for "Return of all sentences of Corporeal Punishment inflicted under 26 and 27 Victoria, c. 44, upon persons convicted of offences under Section 43 of the Larceny Act, 1861, and Section 21 of The Offences against the Person Act, 1861, in England and Wales from the 31st day of December, 1904 to the 31st day of December, 1905 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 189, of Session 1905.)"—(*Mr. Lloyd Morgan*) .. 1595

OPIUM (BURMA).—Address for "Return (1) of the number of licences issued for the sale of opium, and of the revenue derived therefrom in each year since the War of 1885, (*a*) in Upper Burma, (*b*) in the rest of Burma; (2) of the quantity and value of the opium sold in each year during the above period (*a*) in Upper Burma, (*b*) in the rest of Burma; (3) of the population at each census since 1885, (*a*) of Upper Burma, (*b*) of the rest of Burma; (4) of the convictions for crimes (including misdemeanours) in each year since the war of 1885, (*a*) in Upper Burma, (*b*) in the rest of Burma."—(*Mr. Annan Bryce*) 1595

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND).—Return ordered, "showing for the year ended the 31st day of March, 1906, (1) the amount contributed by England, Scotland, and Ireland, respectively, to the Revenue collected by the Imperial officers; (2) the expenditure on English, Scottish, and Irish services met out of such Revenue; and (3) the balances of Revenue contributed by England, Scotland, and Ireland, respectively, which are available for Imperial expenditure (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 230 of Session 1905.")—(*Mr. John O'Connor.*) .. 1595

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

DISTANCES FROM GALWAY.—Question, Mr. Charles Devlin (Galway); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1595

REGULATIONS FOR MOTOR OMNIBUSES.—Question Mr. W. F. D. Smith (Strand, Westminster); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1596

SALARIES OF MACEDONIAN OFFICIALS.—Question, Mr. Silcock (Somersetshire, Wells); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1596

CHINESE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS.—Question, Mr. Joseph Walton (Yorkshire, W.R. Barnsley); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1597

BORING FOR OIL IN LAGOS.—Question, Mr. Brodie (Surrey, Reigate); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1597

MESSRS. MENDELSSOHN AND BRUCE'S CLAIM FOR RENT.—Question, Mr. Scott Ashton-under-Lyne); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1598

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK ACOUNTS.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1599

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK—PUBLICATION OF LIST OF UNCLAIMED BALANCE.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1599

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK—INDEX OF DEPOSITORS.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1600

TELEGRAPHIC FACILITIES IN RURAL DISTRICTS.—Question, Mr. R. L. Harmsworth (Caithness-shire); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1600

MERCHANT SHIPPING STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS.—Question, Mr. J. D. White (Dumbartonshire); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1601

COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF CIVIL SERVICE WRITERS.—Question, Sir G. Kekewich (Exeter); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1601

Flogging for Breaches of Prison Discipline.—Question, Mr. Lloyd Morgan (Carmarthenshire); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1602

Voters at School Board Election.—Areas without Provided Schools.—Question, Sir E. Boyle (Taunton); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1605

Revised Programme for Irish National School Teachers.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1605

Irish Fish Curing Industry.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Bryce .. 1606

Attendance of Mr. Vesey Fitzgerald at Petty Session Courts.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1607

Sales on the Wilson Estate—Action of Mr. Patrick Duff.—Question, Mr. Sullivan (Westmeath, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1607

Hours of Duty of Irish Prison Warders.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1608

Sale of the Estates of the Commissioners of Endowed Schools.—Question, Mr. Delany; Answer, Mr. Bryce 1609

Raising of Wages at Waltham Abbey and Enfield Lock.—Question, Colonel Lockwood (Essex, Epping); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1609

Free Postage for Members of Parliament.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1610

Free Railway for Irish Members.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1610

Education Bill—Interval between Committee and Report Stages.—Question, Mr. Talbot (Oxford University); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1610

Government Facilities for Passing Local Authorities (Qualifications of Women) Bill.—Question, Mr. Brodie; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1611

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Slavery in the Zanzibar Protectorate.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 1612

East African Timber Concession and Railway.—Questions, Mr. Cathcart Wason and Mr. Ashley; Answers, Mr. Churchill 1612

African Forests and Rainfall.—Questions, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answers, Mr. Churchill 1613

Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce's Claim against the Transvaal Government.—Questions, Mr. Scott (Ashton-under-Lyne); Answers, Mr. Churchill 1613

Ceylon Pearl Fisheries.—Questions, Mr. Cowan (Surrey, Guildford), Mr. Ridsdale, Mr. Smeaton (Stirlingshire), Sir J. Jardine (Roxburghshire), and Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answers, Mr. Churchill 1615

Indian Execution.—Questions, Mr. Bright (Oldham) and Sir H. Cotton Nottingham, E.); Answers, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Morley, Montrose Burghs) 1616

Martial Law in Eastern Bengal.—Questions, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.), Sir H. Cotton, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs), and Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answers, Mr. Morley 1617

Alleged Turkish Outrages in Montenegro.—Question, Mr. Alden (Middlesex, Tottenham); Answer, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick) 1618

Abyssinian Railways.—Question, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1619

The Egyptian Frontier.—Question, Mr. Ashley; Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. 1619

Denshawi Trial.—Question, Mr. Belloc (Salford, S.); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1619

Murder of Missionaries at Nan-Chang.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1620

Cretan Administration.—Questions, Mr. Lonsdale; Answers, Sir Edward Grey 1620

Local Commissioners of Taxes.—Question, Mr. Sears (Cheltenham); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 1621

Tax Collection.—Question, Mr. Sears; Answer, Mr. Asquith 1621

Fictitious Brandy.—Questions, Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.); Answers, Mr. Asquith 1622

Motor Bus Accidents in London Streets.—Questions, Mr. Chiozza-Money (Paddington, N.), Mr. Myer (Lambeth, N.), Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answers, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 1623

The Charlottenburg Exhibition.—Question, Mr. Alden; Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. ..

Steel Trade Rings.—Questions, Mr. Chiozza-Money; Answers, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Burghs) 1626

New York Mutual Reserve Company.—Questions, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.), Mr. Flynn, Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. ; Answers, Mr. Lloyd-George 1626

London Improvements—House Demolition.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answers, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 1627

Education Bill—Extended Facilities.—Questions, Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answers, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 1629

HOUSE OF COMMONS LETTER BOXES.—Question, Mr. Clough (Yorkshire, W.R., Skipton); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 1630

COLLECTION OF CROWN RENTS—MESSRS. CLUTTON'S FEES.—Question, Mr. Nussey (Pontefract); Answer, The Financial Secretary of the Treasury (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) 1630

SCOTTISH EDUCATION SYSTEM.—Question, Mr. Munro-Ferguson (Leith Burghs); Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 1631

SUTHERLAND DEER FORESTS.—Questions, Mr. Morton (Sutherland), Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answers, Mr. Sinclair 1632

SCOTTISH MEDICAL OFFICERS' HOLDINGS.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1633

GLASNEVIN MODEL FARM.—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Bryce, Aberdeen, S.) 1633

CHICAGO TINNED MEAT.—Question, Mr. Halpin (Clare, W.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1634

CONSTABULARY FUND.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1635

GALWAY EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. John Roche (Galway, E.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1635

COMMISSION ON DRAINAGE.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1635

LOUTH EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. Nolan (Louth, S.); Answer, Mr. Bryce 1636

SWEATING.—Questions, Mr. O'Grady; Mr. Chiozza-Money; Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman) 1636

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS BILL.—Questions, Mr. Alexander Cross (Glasgow, Camlachie), Mr. T. M. Healy, Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London); Answers, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1637

THE EDUCATION BILL.—Questions, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.), Major Seely (Liverpool, Abercromby), Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. Samuel Evans (Glamorganshire, Mid.); Answers, Mr. Birrell 1639

MESSAGE TO THE LORDS.—Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to request that their Lordships will be pleased to give leave to Sir Henry Graham, K.C.B., Clerk of the Parliaments, to attend to be examined as a Witness before the Committee of Public Accounts.—(*Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) .. 1642

Bills of Exchange Act (1882) Amendment Bill.—Order [June 15th] that the Bills of Exchange Act (1882) Amendment Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc., read, and discharged.

Bill committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.—(*Mr. Attorney-General.*) 1642

Education (England and Wales) Bill.—Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 7 :—

Mr. Hicks Beach (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) 1642

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 13, to leave out Sub-section (1)."—(*Mr. Hicks Beach.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'a teacher employed in a public elementary school' stand part of the clause."

Mr. Acland (Yorkshire, Richmond) 1645
Sir Henry Craik (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) 1649
The President of the Board of Education (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) .. 1652
Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) 1655
The Solicitor General (Sir W. Robson, South Shields) 1659
Mr. Wyndham (Dover) 1662
Mr. Butcher (Cambridge University) 1664
Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.) 1666
Mr. Soares (Devonshire, Barnstaple) 1667
Mr. Evelyn Cecil (Aston Manor) 1668
Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.) 1670
Mr. Middlemore (Birmingham, N.) 1671
Mr. Harold Cox (Preston) 1672
Sir William Anson (Oxford University) 1673
Mr. George White (Norfolk, N.W.) 1674
Mr. Laurence Hardy (Kent, Ashford) 1675

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 318 ; Noes, 191. (Division List No. 181.)

Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool) 1681

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 13, after the word 'school,' to insert the words 'may be present during the time allotted for special religious instruction for the purpose of maintaining discipline, but.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Birrell 1682
Mr. T. M. Healy (Louth, N.) 1683
Lord R. Cecil 1684

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 105 ; Noes, 375 (Division List No. 182.)

Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry) 1689

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 14, to leave out the word 'give,' and insert the words 'be required as a condition of his or her employment to give or to abstain from giving.'"—(*Mr. Bridgeman.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'give' stand part of the Clause."

Mr. Birrell 1691
Mr. Cave (*Surrey, Kingston*) 1692
Mr. Yoxall (*Nottingham, W.*) 1693

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 262 ; Noes, 128. (Division List No. 183.)

Lord R. Cecil 1697

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out in Sub-section 1 all the words after 'instruction' in line 14 to the words 'under this Act' in line 17.'"

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr A. J. Balfour 1701
Mr. Stewart (*Sunderland*) 1702
Mr. T. M. Healey 1702
Mr. Birrell 1704
Sir William Anson 1706
Lord R. Cecil 1707

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Lord Balcarres (*Lancashire, Chorley*) 1708

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 20, to leave out Sub-section (2)."—(*Lord Balcarres.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'A teacher employed' stand part of the clause."

Sir Francis Powell (*Wigan*) 1709
Dr. Macnamara (*Camberwell, N.*) 1710
The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (*Mr. Lough, Islington, W.*) 1710
Sir William Anson 1712
Mr. Bowles (*Lambeth, Norwood*) 1714
Mr. Lough 1715
Mr. A. J. Balfour 1716
Mr. Birrell 1720
Lord R. Cecil 1722

And, it being half-past Ten of the clock, the Chairman proceeded, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 18th June, to put forthwith the Question on the Amendment already proposed from the Chair.

Question put, "That the words 'A teacher employed' stand part of the Clause."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 416; Noes, 118. (Division List No. 184.)

The Chairman then proceeded to put forthwith the Question necessary to dispose of the allotted business to be concluded.

Question put, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 364; Noes, 183. (Division List No. 185.) Whereupon the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress; to sit again To-morrow.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) [EXPENSES].—Resolution reported: "That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of an additional annual grant, not exceeding £1,000,000, to be distributed among local education authorities in pursuance of any Act of the present session to make further provision with respect to education in England and Wales, and of the remuneration and expenses of the Commissioners appointed under such Act."

Resolution read a Second time.

Question, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution," put forthwith, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 18th June, and agreed to.

Great Northern (Ireland) and Midland Railways Bill [LORDS (BY ORDER).—Read a second time, and committed.

Mr. J. MacVeagh (Down, S.) 1733
Mr. Dodd (Tyrone, N.) 1738

Motion made, and Question proposed.—"That it be an instruction to the Committee on the Bill to insert a clause providing that all future appointments to clerkships of the Great Northern Railway (Ireland) and of the Midland Railway in Ireland shall be made only after and as a result of open competitive examinations; that the examinations shall be conducted by two examiners, whose remuneration shall be fixed by the Committee, one of the examiners to be appointed by the Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, or the head of any other educational institution, and the other by the Rector of University College, Stephen's Green, Dublin; that the vacancies shall be filled in the order of merit of the candidates, as reported by the examiners, subject to medical examination; and that due notice of such examinations shall be published in at least four Nationalist and four Unionist daily papers in Ireland.—[*Mr. Jeremiah MacVeagh.*]

Mr. Gordon (Londonderry, S.) 1739
Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) 1744
Captain Craig (Down, E.) 1745
Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs) 1746

Amendment proposed—

" In line 5, to leave out the words from the first word 'examinations,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'held in accordance with such regulations as the Committee may prescribe' "—(*Mr. Lloyd-George*)—instead thereof.

Question proposed, " That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Sir E. Carson (*Dublin University*) 1747

Question put, and negatived.

Words added.

Main Question, as amended, put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 161; Noes, 31. (Division List No. 186.)

Ordered, That it be an instruction to the Committee on the Bill to insert a clause providing that all future appointments to clerkships of the Great Northern Railway (Ireland) and of the Midland Railway in Ireland shall be made only after and as a result of open competitive examinations, held in accordance with such regulations as the Committee may prescribe.

And, it being after half-past Eleven of the clock on Tuesday evening, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at twenty minutes after Twelve o'clock

END OF TABLE OF CONTENTS TO VOL. CLIX.

VOLUME CLIX

ERRATUM.

June 19. Re MR. CHURCHILL.—In col. 35, line 23, *for* "not exceeding 2*s*.," *read* "not exceeding 9*s*."

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(*AUTHORISED EDITION*)

IN THE

FIRST SESSION OF THE *TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT* OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*, APPOINTED TO MEET
THE THIRTEENTH DAY OF FEBRUARY IN THE SIXTH YEAR OF THE
REIGN OF

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

EIGHTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1906.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 19th June, 1906.

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: North East London Railway; Hackney Electricity.

Also the Certificate that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill: Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7).

And also the Certificates that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2); Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3).; Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Pontefract Corporation Bill. Report from His Majesty's Attorney-General received, and ordered to lie on the Table.

Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill. Reported, with an Amendment.

Ritz Hotel Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments.

Macclesfield and District Tramways Bill. The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 10th and 29th May last discharged, and Bill committed.

North East London Railway Bill; Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill; Lancashire Electric Power Bill; St. Pancras Electricity Bill; Tottenham and Edmonton Gas Bill; Metropolitan District Railway Bill; Kettering Water Bill; Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill; North West London Railway Bill; Bristol Corporation Bill. Read 2ª.

Derby Gas Bill. Read 2ª, and committed.

Pontefract Corporation Bill. Read 2ª, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Rochester, Chatham, and Strood Gas Bill; Cheltenham Gas Bill. Read 2ª, and committed.

Edinburgh Corporation Bill. Read 2ª, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Metropolitan Railway Bill; South Suburban Gas Bill. Read 2ª, and committed.

Hackney Electricity Bill. Read 2ª.

Corporation of London (Blackfriars and other Bridges) Bill. Standing Order No. 93 considered (according to order), and dispensed with, with respect to a Petition of the Metropolitan Water Board. Leave given to present the said Petition.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Brought from the Commons.

Scottish Provident Institution Buildings Bill [H. L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to.

Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill; Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill. Committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday next.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. Read 2ª (according to order).

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 6) Bill. Read 2ª (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday next.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill. Read 2ª (according to order).

Local Government Provisional Order (Poor Law) Bill. Read 2ª (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday next.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill (No. 128); Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill (No. 129). Read 1ª; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.

Petition in favour of denominational religious teaching in schools, of teachers in school at Colne: read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

WELLINGTON COLLEGE.

Report of the governors for the year ended 31st December, 1905; with accounts.

DUBLIN HOSPITALS.

Forty-eighth Report of the Board of Superintendence of Dublin Hospitals, with Appendices, for the year 1905–1906.

GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.

Report of the principal chemist upon the work of the Government Laboratory, for the year ended 31st March, 1906; with Appendices.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Orders made by the following councils, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within their respective city and urban district: 1. Urban District of Stretford; 2. City of Hereford.

INEBRIATES ACT, 1898.

Regulations, dated 15th June, 1906, made by the Secretary for Scotland in pursuance of Section 6 as read with Section 25 of the Act, respecting the transfer of inebriates from a State inebriate reformatory in Scotland to a certified inebriate reformatory.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (THE MARQUESS OF RIPON): My Lords, your Lordships no doubt observed that Lord Kinnaird, who had given notice yesterday to ask His Majesty's Government—

> 1. If they can explain to the House the cause of the repeated delays in presenting the Report of the Commission on Ecclesiastical Discipline to His Majesty the King, and why it has not been presented before Whitsuntide as promised in March in another place;
>
> 2. Would the Government endeavour to hasten this Report, as it would be of the greatest value during the Education debate.
>
> 3. Does not the prolonged delay involve the Government in considerable additional expense;
>
> 4. Could the Government also further the matter by recommending to the Commission the advisability of getting the volumes of evidence or some of them printed off and bound at once, so that there will be no printing delays after the Commission have made their report—

was not in his place to put the Questions. I have since received a letter from him stating the cause of his absence, and I think it would be only fair to the noble Lord to read his letter to your Lordships, as some Members of the House, at all events, complained a good deal of his not being in his place. Lord Kinnaird writes—

> "I must apologise for not arriving in time to put my Questions this afternoon. I was unavoidably detained and hurried down to the House, but found I was just too late. I was taking part in the jubilee meeting of a society of which I am treasurer. I thought I was safe if I arrived by ten minutes to five. I also got blocked in Bond Street."

I understand from the noble Lord that he is going to put his Questions down for Friday next. I am glad that he proposes taking an early opportunity of doing so, as the Questions tend to reflect, I think unreasonably, upon a Royal Commission, and I do not think it is a matter which ought to be delayed.

COLONIAL MARRIAGES BILL [H.L.].

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed and sent to the Commons.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE EARL OF STAMFORD: My Lords, this is an extremely simple Bill, and it will need only a very few words of explanation. In the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, it is laid down that a person shall be disqualified from being elected and being a municipal councillor if, and while, among other disqualifications, he has directly or indirectly, by himself or his partners, any share or interest in any contract or employment, with, by, or on behalf of the council. Then follows this qualification, that he shall not be so disqualified or be deemed to have any share or interest in such a contract or employment by reason of his having any share or interest in, *inter alia*—

> "Any railway company, or any company incorporated by Act of Parliament, or Royal Charter, or under the Companies Act of 1862."

It is proposed to amend this last section by the addition of the words—

> "Or any society registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts, 1893 and 1895."

As things are at present, if a member of such a society has a seat on a municipal council, and that council enters into a contract with the society of which such person is a member, it is held that he is disqualified for being a councillor. I think your Lordships will acknowledge that this is a matter which should be remedied. It is merely sought to place a member of such a society on the same footing as a shareholder in a joint stock company; or, in other words, to place a man who may be described as a small member of a large society on the same footing as a large shareholder of a small company. The question is one of some importance at the present day, although it was a small matter at the time when the Municipal Corporations Act was amended in 1882. The figures in the last report of the Chief Registrar of Industrial and Provident Societies shows that there were, in 1904, 1,485 such societies in England and Wales, with a membership of 1,787,602, and the sales of the societies amounted to £71,153,459. These societies have increased very rapidly of late years, and are conducting important businesses, and I hope your Lordships will agree to the proposal contained in this Bill to remove what is felt to be a great inequality.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*The Earl of Stamford.*)

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (Earl CARRINGTON): My Lords, there is no doubt whatever that the law should be made uniform in this respect, and my right hon. friend the President desires me to say that he sees no objection to this Bill, which he looks upon as a very useful and practical measure.

On Question, Bill read 2^a, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday next.

METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSION BILL.

[THIRD READING.]

Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3^a."—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

EARL RUSSELL, who had given notice to move to resolve "That in the opinion of this House the proposed inquiry is of too limited a character to serve any useful purpose," said: My Lords, your Lordships will recollect what took place on the Second Reading of this Bill, the print of which only reached the House at the moment when the Second Reading was being moved; and the circumstances which compelled me, therefore, to defer my observations upon it until this stage. The objection to this Bill presents considerable difficulty, because it is impossible to amend the portion to which I invite your Lordships to take exception—that is, the terms of reference to the Royal Commission. These are contained in the recital of the Bill, and it is therefore impossible to put down an Amendment. The terms of reference in the Bill are as follows—

> "To inquire into and report upon the duties of the Metropolitan Police in dealing with cases of drunkenness, disorder, and solicitation in the streets, and the manner in which those duties are discharged, with power to make recommendations thereon."

From the time that this matter first arose objection has been taken in both Houses to the limited nature of the reference, and I would call your Lordships' attention for one moment to the class of cases which the reference will exclude from the consideration of the Royal Commission.

One of those cases must be fairly well known to you Lordships. I refer to the case of Police-constable Rolls, who was sentenced to a long term of penal servitude for perjury. There are many people who have taken the view from the beginning that the trial of that police-constable was conducted in an unsatisfactory manner, and that he did not in fact receive justice. In connection with this very Bill I find an article in one of this morning's newspapers dealing with the case of Rolls, in which the following is said—

> "The release of ex-Police-constable Rolls does not signify pardon or legal rehabilitation, but it certainly mitigates what we believe to be a wholly unmerited tragedy. This man has never had a fair trial, nor will the police officials permit the Home Secretary to allow the case to be publicly inquired into."

Your Lordships may recollect that the accusation against this constable was that he took a prisoner to the station, and in the course of searching the prisoner at the station foisted upon him and professed to have found on his person a hammer and some other instruments intended for housebreaking; the evidence against him was that of the person so arrested, a man of unfixed home, and of a woman of the lowest class, who was not introduced until late in the proceedings, and whose evidence has always been regarded by a large number of persons as unsatisfactory and unreliable. The newspaper article proceeds—

> "The way in which this girl was summoned to Scotland Yard and there subjected to solitary cross-examination is not more strange than the determined effort to prevent the case, at all costs, from coming before the Royal Commission, which is thus reduced to a rather palpable farce."

There are other cases with which your Lordships may not be so familiar, but all of the same character, dealing with arrests by the police and with what is believed to be mistaken, and, in some cases, manufactured, police evidence to justify the police if a mistake had been made.

There is the case, to which I may have to call your Lordships' attention again later, of a man named Croucher, who was sentenced to imprisonment for theft, a charge of which I believe it is now admitted he was innocent. That man was released, but was not compensated in any way for the injustice done him, and he has been convicted since of an assault upon the police in circumstances which made many people think there was no justification for that conviction. That being an assault on the police, it is doubtful whether it will be covered by the terms of reference to this Royal Commission, because the actual words are "drunkenness, disorder, and solicitation," yet that is one of the cases requiring investigation.

Then there is the case of a man named Scott. Scott was arrested on a charge of betting and convicted on the evidence of two detectives; he has subsequently done what he could to produce several witnesses—it is true he did not call them at his trial, though of that he gives an intelligible explanation—and to have his case reopened, but he has found that impossible. The magistrate has refused to grant process against the detectives who gave evidence against him, and that refusal on the part of the magistrate has been supported by the High Court on appeal. That is a case in which it is believed that the police have made an entire mistake and have given evidence which is not true. That case also cannot be investigated by the Commission.

I think it is not too much to say that in the other House there has been a very large and general discontent at the limitation of the terms of reference. It is not a real and genuine inquiry which it is proposed to hold by this Commission into the conduct of the police, and I have some apprehension, if further inquiry is necessary, as it most certainly is, that when that inquiry is demanded, we shall be met with the statement that a Royal Commission has been appointed and dealt with it. On the other hand, it is possible that the evidence which is brought before this Commission may be of such a character as to cause the public to demand that another inquiry on a larger scale should take place.

Is it, or is it not, desired by His Majesty's Government to get at the truth in this matter, and to sift these cases thoroughly? I ask that in view of communications which I have myself had with the Home Office in the course of preparing some evidence for this inquiry. The clerks' notes upon which these prisoners are convicted are in the custody of the magistrates. They are apparently not public documents to which the public is entitled on the payment of the necessary fee; but it is obvious that if any case where it is alleged that there has been miscarriage of justice is to be presented to the Royal Commission, even among the limited number of cases that do come within the terms of reference, it will be necessary for those who present it to see the magistrates' clerks' notes. I applied to the Home Office in the hope that authority would be given for those notes to be supplied, and in reply I received this letter on behalf of the Home Secretary—

> "Whitehall,
> "9*th June*, 1906.
>
> "MY LORD,—With reference to your application of the 29th ultimo that Mr. Timewell may be furnished with certain papers for use in connection with the preparation of evidence for submission to the Royal Commission on the Metropolitan Police, I have the honour, by direction of the Secretary of State, to say that he cannot direct magistrates to furnish copies of depositions or notes of evidence to Mr. Timewell. If the depositions or notes of the evidence in any case should be required by the Royal Commission the magistrates will no doubt be ready to supply them direct to the Commission.
>
> "I have the honour, etc.,
> "ERNLEY BLACKWELL."

No doubt they will, but it is not possible to present a case so well if you are furnished with a portion of your evidence in the middle of the inquiry, and when there is a great deal of difficulty and delay in obtaining it. If it is desired that this should be a real inquiry, I submit that no obstacle should be placed in the way of preparing evidence to be laid before it. The impression is gaining ground that this is not intended to be a real inquiry, that it is not intended to be an inquiry as a result of which the police force shall be cleansed of the abuses that exist, but that it is merely an inquiry to whitewash the C. Division as a whole, or the particular constables concerned in one particular case which has been much discussed. In these circumstances it is hardly to be expected that the police witnesses who give evidence before the Commission will be frank or state fully everything that they know and everything that has been brought to their notice as to irregularities in the police force.

I desire it to be understood that I make no general charge against the police as a whole. Your Lordships, of course, come in contact with the police in a manner in which you find them extremely agreeable and useful servants of the public; but there is a section of the population, the poorest of the poor, whose club is the public-house and whose home is to a large extent the streets, who are practically at the mercy of the police, and who constantly suffer injustice on account of the conduct of certain police constables who have not sufficient regard for the responsibilities which their position casts upon them. Those are cases which, I think, ought to be inquired into, and inquired into fully, and I very much regret that this has been rendered impossible by a Government to whom many of us looked for so much, to whom many of us looked for a reversal of the more official attitude of past years, and who we expected would have gone into these matters without prejudice, and with a free and open mind. I feel bound to make this protest at this stage of the Bill, and to express my regret that the inquiry has been limited in this way.

Amendment moved—

"To resolve, 'That, in the opinion of this House, the proposed inquiry is of too limited a character to serve any useful purpose.'"—(*Earl Russell.*)

Earl Russell.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: My Lords, the answer which I have to give to the noble Earl is probably the one which he anticipates, as it is exactly the same as the one I gave to a Question which he addressed to His Majesty's Government some time ago. I must, however, say that I am quite unable to agree with him that there is any general discontent with the action of His Majesty's Government in this matter. If there had been it would certainly have found expression in the other House, where, as a matter of fact, the Bill setting up the Royal Commission passed through all its stages without a division. The terms of reference, of which the noble Earl complains, are not really before your Lordships' House this afternoon. The Bill is concerned only with the nature of the powers to be conferred upon the Commission.

With regard to what the noble Earl has said generally on the question, I am sure I shall have the support of your Lordships in saying that the general confidence of the people of London in their police force is very great indeed. The metropolitan police occupies a position almost unique in that respect among the police forces of the various capitals of the world. But however great public confidence may be, agitations are bound to arise at times in certain quarters which tend to create a feeling of uneasiness. That, I think, has happened on the present occasion, and people have taken, as is not unusual, certain test cases. It is, therefore, thought desirable by His Majesty's Government that the particular cases which have attracted public attention should be referred for inquiry to as strong and impartial a body as it is possible for them to constitute. The case of Madame D'Angely and the boat race night incident are the two cases into which the Royal Commission will probably inquire first of all.

I cannot think with the noble Earl that any very useful purpose would be served by inquiring into the case of ex-Police-Constable Rolls, who, as the noble Earl told us, was released this morning. Rolls was convicted four and a-half years ago, and it is obvious that the memory of those concerned cannot be as fresh as it ought to be if a case of this importance is to be inquired into. I entirely repudiate the suggestion made by the noble Earl that it is the intention of His Majesty's

Government to whitewash the metropolitan police, and I venture to think that the constitution of the Royal Commission is sufficient to exonerate His Majesty's Government in that matter. Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, Mr. W. H. Dickinson, Mr. Rufus Isaacs, Mr. D. Brynmor Jones, and Mr. C. A. Whitmore are gentlemen who are in no way likely to lend themselves to such a design as that attributed to His Majesty's Government by the noble Earl. I regret that we are unable to accept his Amendment.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: My Lords, I share with the noble Earl opposite the general confidence in the integrity and efficiency of the metropolitan police and in the independence of the Commissioners whom His Majesty's Government have appointed to inquire into this matter; but I think the noble Earl who has introduced the subject has reason to complain of the perfunctory nature of the reply given on behalf of His Majesty's Government. The noble Earl said, in the first place, that there had been no objection to the Bill in the other House. This is not the first time we have heard that argument, and on the last occasion that it was used it did not meet with very great success in your Lordships' House. It is particularly unfortunate on this occasion, because I gather from the usual channels of information that the reason no opposition was offered to the Bill was that His Majesty's Government declared that if there were any opposition or any serious attempt to amend the Bill they would not proceed with it at all; so that the House of Commons was, as it were, under a sort of duress to pass the Bill in this form and without discussion. The noble Earl who spoke on behalf of His Majesty's Government said that the terms of reference could not be called into question because they had been agreed to without discussion in the other House. Poor other House! they had no choice in the matter whatever. I venture to assert that for His Majesty's Government to say that the terms of reference are not open to discussion in your Lordships' House is an observation which ought not to be addressed to one of the Houses of Parliament. The terms of reference are included in the Bill, and therefore they are open to discussion by your Lordships. As to whether it would be wise or not to extend the scope of the reference, that is a matter upon which I do not pretend to have any strong opinion; but I think we should have been more able to form an opinion if the noble Earl who has just sat down had given us more reasons why it should not be extended. The noble Earl who raised this question gave reasons why the terms of reference should be extended, but the noble Earl who represents the Home Office did not respond in any adequate manner.

Lastly, the noble Earl opposite asked that those who were interested in the proceedings before this Commission should have an opportunity of seeing certain documents which were necessary for their case. The noble Earl said that he had made application to the Home Office and that the Home Office had refused to exercise their influence on his behalf in order to obtain these documents. The noble Earl who spoke for the Government appeared to think it best to pass over in silence that complaint of the noble Earl. The noble Earl was within his rights in contending that to communicate these documents to the Royal Commission if they asked for them was not the same as communicating them to parties who might be interested in the inquiry. I venture, with very great respect, to say to His Majesty's Government and to the noble Marquess who leads this House that your Lordships are entitled to a fuller reply on a matter of such importance than that which has been given by the noble Earl who has just sat down.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, with regard to the last observations of the noble Marquess, it is true that my noble friend did not say anything with respect to magistrates' clerks' notes to which the noble Earl behind me referred; but surely it is obvious that if the witnesses wish to see those notes in order to place their case fully before the Commission they will submit their desires to the Commissioners. It is not according to usual practice to give notes of that kind to anybody who may ask for them. I have no doubt whatever that the magistrates would communicate the notes to the Royal Commission if the Commission required them. I have also no doubt that the Royal Commission, composed of such men as it is, would give ample time to any witness to consider those notes when they had procured them. But I do not think it would be desirable to set the precedent of interfering with the usual practice in a matter of this kind. Great inconvenience might arise from it. The Royal Commission are entitled to have the notes if they want them, and if witnesses require them they can have them.

I am sorry that the noble Marquess opposite is so displeased because my noble friend who represents the Home Office informed your Lordships that the terms of reference to the Commission were not open to discussion. What my noble friend said was that the terms of reference were not before your Lordships this afternoon. That is perfectly true. I did not understand my noble friend to say that your Lordships were precluded from discussing the terms of reference if you wished to do so, but that the reference did not form part of this Bill. The case is very simple. We all know that this Bill arose almost entirely out of a particular case, or, at all events, out of two cases. One of those cases has disappeared and the urgency of the Bill may therefore be less than it at one time was, but it was brought in as an urgent Bill for the purpose of making special inquiry, by eminently competent men, into two or three special cases.

It is not the intention of His Majesty's Government that the inquiry shall cover the whole working of the metropolitan police. That is a very large and difficult question, and it is not one which the Government ever intended to submit to this Commission. The purpose of the Commission is limited. The noble Earl who raised this question said that, supposing it should appear from the Report of the Commission that there ought to be a wider inquiry, those who advocated the wider inquiry would be met with the statement that there had been a Commission and there could not be another. If this Commission does establish a case for a larger inquiry of any kind into the general working of the metropolitan police, I have no doubt such an inquiry, in whatever way may be most appropriate, will take place. This Commission will not bar further investigation if it should be necessary, but His Majesty's Government have no ground for thinking that wider inquiry is necessary. I desire to associate myself entirely with the words which fell from my noble friend Earl Beauchamp with respect to the metropolitan police. I have the utmost confidence in the metropolitan police, and believe them to be an admirable body of public servants. There may be black sheep among them, as there are in every large institution, but as a body they are entitled to, and I believe they enjoy, the respect, not only of His Majesty's Government, but of the people of London.

The Marquess of Ripon.

On Question, Amendment negatived.

Bill read 3^a, and passed.

House adjourned at ten minutes past Five o'clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 19*th June*, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways Bill [Lords]; Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [Lords]; Hull Joint Dock Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolutions reported from the Select Committee:—

1. "That, in the case of the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company Bill [Lords], the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with. That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

2. "That, in the case of the South Wales Electrical Power Distribution Company Bill, Petition for additional Provision, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with. That the parties be permitted to nsert their Additional

Provision, provided that the consent in writing of three-fourths of the existing debenture stock holders and the approval of three-fourths of the existing shareholders of the Company, at a meeting specially called for the purpose, is proved before the Committee on the Bill. That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

Resolutions agreed to.

Scottish Union and National Insurance Company Bill [Lords]. Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill to be read a second time.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—

Seamen's and Soldiers' False Characters Bill, without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board; to make the Mynyddislwyn Urban District Council a constituent authority; and for other purposes." [Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [Lords].

And, also, a Bill intituled, "An Act to confer further powers upon the Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Company; and for other purposes." [Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Bill [Lords].

Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [Lords]; Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

BETTING AND GAMBLING.

Petition from New Mills, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; From Allendale; Ashwick; Berwick-upon-Tweed; Lucker; Norwood; Nottingham; Retford; Riddlesworth; Sibbertoft; and, Towcester; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; From Abbotsley (two); Abbots Ripton; Abingdon Pigotts; Aldham (two); Alwalton (two); Arrington; Badwell Ash (two); Barton Mills; Bassingbourne; Bath; Bildeston (two); Bourn (two); Boxford (two); Bradfield; Bradfield St. Clare; Brampton; Brent Eleigh (two); Brockley; Buckworth (two); Bures (two); Bury (two); Cambridge (three); Carleton; Castle Eden; Cavendish (two); Cavenham; Caxton; Childerley; Chingay; Clare; Cockfield; Connington (four); Croydon cum Clapton; Dalham; Dewchurch; Diddington (two); Docking; Drinkstone (two); East Watley; Elsworth (two); Elveden (two); Euston; Eynesbury (two); Felsham (two); Fen Drayton (two); Freckenham (two); Friskney; Gedding (two); Girton; Glatton (two); Graveley (two); Great Catworth (two); Great Cornard (two); Great Fakenham (two); Great Gidding (two); Great Gransden; Great Saxham (two); Great Shelford (three); Great Staughton (two); Guilden Morden (two); Haddenham; Haddon; Hadleigh (two); Hallow; Hamerton (two); Hardwicke (two); Hartest; Hartford (two); Haslingfield; Hatley St. George (two); Hawstead (two); Hemingford Abbots; Hemingford Grey (two); Hessett; Higham Green (two); Histon; Hitcham (two); Holwell; Horringer (two); Houghton; Huntingdon (four); Icklington; Ickworth; Impington (two); Ixworth (two); Kimbolton (two); King's Ripton; Lakenheath (two); Leavenheath (two); Leighton; Lewisham; Lindsey (two); Litlington (two); Little Bradley; Little Shelford (two); Little Stukeley (two); Little Waldingfield; Llanigon; Longstowe (two); Manchester; Mildenhall (two); Molesworth (two); Oakington and Westwick; Offord D'Arcy (two); Offord Cluny; Orwell; Papworth St. Agnes (two); Pidley cum Fenton; Pondsbridge; Ramsey (two); Ramsey St. Mary (two); Risby (two); Rougham; St. Agnes Exning; Sapiston (two); Sawtry; Spaldwick (two); Stanground; Stapleford; Stansfield (two); Stanton; Stapleford; Stangham; Stepney; Stilton; Stradishall (two); Sudbury; Swineshead (two);

Tadlow; Thorpe Morieux (two); Tilbrook; Tring with Wiltstone; Trumpington; Walsham le Willows; Warboys (two); Waresley; Water Newton; Whaddon; Whepstead; Willingham (two); Wimpole; Wiston (two): Witcham; Witchford (two); Wixol (two); Woodstone; Woolpit; Worlington; Wyton; and, Yelling (two); to lie upon the Table.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Petitions for alteration of Law; From Gateshead; Hoxne; Kingston; Maidstone; and Tisbury; to lie upon the Table.

LAND VALUES TAXATION, ETC. (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions against; From Carmunnock; and, Rutherglen; to lie upon the Table.

LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS BILL [LORDS].

Petition of Central Association of Bankers, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

MUNICIPAL POWERS BILL.

Petition from Cheltenham, against; to lie upon the Table.

PHARMACY BILL.

Petition from Lincoln, against; to lie upon the Table.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petitions for alteration; From Abingdon; Bury; Camberwell; Christchurch; Clapham; Colchester; Earlestown; Edinburgh (four); Enfield (two); Epsom (two); Finsbury (Central); Hereford; Inverness; Kennington; Lanarkshire; Lincoln (three); Manchester (North West); Mid Kent or Medway; Monmouth Boroughs; Newton; North Berks; Norwood; Ravensthorpe; Rushcliffe; St. George's, Hanover Square; Sheffield (three); Stockport; Stockton-on-Tees; Sudbury; Torquay (two); Walsall (two); Wednesbury; West Bridgford; Winchester; and, York; to lie upon the Table.

REGISTRATION OF HEADMASTERS (ORDER IN COUNCIL, 6TH MARCH, 1902).

Petition of Thomas Allen, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.

Petition from Uxbridge, against; to lie upon the Table.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INEBRIATES ACT, 1898.

Copy presented, of Regulation, dated 15th June 1906, made by the Secretary for Scotland in pursuance of Section 6 as read with Section 25 of The Inebriates Act, 1898, respecting the transfer of Inebriates from a State Inebriate Reformatory in Scotland to a certified Inebriate Reformatory [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 203.]

WELLINGTON COLLEGE.

Copy presented, of Report of the Governors of Wellington College for the year ending 31st December 1905, with Accounts [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EXPERIMENTS ON LIVING ANIMALS.

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 15th June; *Mr. Herbert Samuel*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed [No. 204].

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the City of Hereford, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, Fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the City [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Urban District Council of Stretford, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for Hairdressers' Shops within the Urban District [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

DUBLIN HOSPITALS.

Copy presented, of Forty-eighth Report of the Board of Superintendence, with

Appendices, for the year 1905–6 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3542 to 3545 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

GOVERNMENT LABORATORY.

Copy presented, of Report of the Principal Chemist upon the work of the Government Laboratory for the year ended 31st March 1906, with Appendices [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

INCLOSURES (COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER).

Return ordered, "showing (1) the number of Inclosures of common land made under the Inclosure Acts from 1845 to 1899, in the County of Gloucester; (2) list of parishes within which such lands are wholly or partly situate; (3) total acreage of such Inclosures; (4) average acreage of such Inclosures."—(*Mr. Essex.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Pay in Dungannon Post Office.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that an officer appointed last year at the Dungannon office was started at 18s. per week, although over 20½ years of age; and, seeing that, under the Stanley revision, an officer is entitled to 18s. at 19 years of age, thus allowing him to reach 22s. at 21 years of age, will he have the officer referred to placed on this scale.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) It is the case that an officer was appointed at Dungannon last year at wages of 18s. a week although over 20 years of age. The rule that an officer is to receive 18s. at 19 years of age does not mean that in all cases he will receive more than 18s. if he is appointed at an age above 19.

British Consul at Chicago and the Meat Scandals.

SIR WILLIAM BULL (Hammersmith): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's consul in Chicago has made any investigations into the charges against the meat business; and, if so, when his Report is likely to be received, and if it is proposed to publish it.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) I suppose that the hon. Member has in his mind a telegram in the Press, stating that His Majesty's consul had inspected the meat-packing establishments, and that his Report was understood to be generally favourable. Mr. Finn, the consul in question, has telegraphed to the effect that he has refused to make any statements, but that he has written a Report, which was despatched on the 14th instant. I cannot say whether the Report will be published until I have examined it. It seems to me, however, that the subject is one which can only be adequately treated by an expert.

Unrest in Russia.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that certain members of the Duma fear a revival of outrages on Jews; and whether any representations on the subject can be made by the British Foreign Office.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) We have no official information, and the Question is not one which can be made the subject of official representations.

Payment to Messrs. Stillwell for Goods supplied to South African Constabulary.

MR. R. PEARCE (Staffordshire, Leek): To ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that goods supplied by Messrs. Stillwell and Son between October 1902 and August 1903, and amounting to £412 7s. 3d., to the officer then commanding E division, South African Constabulary, have not yet been paid for, in spite of many requests, calls, and correspondence with the authorities in South Africa and the Colonial Office up to the 25th April, 1906, since which date the supplying firm can get no further consideration; and whether he will take steps to have the matter settled.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The matter is one which cannot be conveniently discussed within the limits of a Question. It has formed the subject of prolonged correspondence with the authorities in South Africa, which is now being finally considered by the legal advisers of the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State must not be taken to admit that the facts are accurately stated in the Question or that the South African Constabulary are liable. In all probability the matter will prove to be one which can only be decided by a Court of Law.

Transfer of Second Division Clerks to Dublin.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that several Irish second division clerks serving in Government departments in London have intimated to the heads of these departments that they are desirous of being transferred to Government departments in Dublin, and that the Civil Service Commissioners recently issued a circular to English and Scotch second division clerks waiting for appointments, asking them if they would serve in Dublin, and actually appointed some of them there nolens volens, he can explain why the former were not transferred before circularising and appointing the latter.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The Civil Service Commissioners inform me that for any vacancy for a permanent appointment in Ireland they always select an Irish candidate if one is available. Indeed, owing to a dearth of Irish competitors in the open competition last autumn they were at considerable pains to transfer Irish clerks from London departments. The circular to which the hon. Member refers concerned temporary service in Ireland, and to this purpose transfer was not applicable. Consequently volunteers for this temporary employment were asked for from among the candidates (residing in Great Britain), but no clerk was forced to go against his will, and no Irish candidate available was passed over.

Amounts and Rates of Interest on Sums issued under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether he will state the amounts and the varying rates of interest of sums issued under The Labourers (Ireland) Act, 1883, and subsequent Acts by the Commissioners of Public Works and other bodies; the total amount of principal outstanding at the various rates of interest; and whether he will consider the advisability of reducing the interest on these outstanding loans.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna*). The total amount issued to 31st March 1906 under the Labourers Acts was £3,138,333 8s. 8d., at the following rates of interest:—2¾, 3, 3¼, 3⅜, 3½, 3¾, 4, and 4¼, per cent. At the same date the principle outstanding amounted to £2,601,737 5s. 11d., apportioned amongst the various rates of interest as follows:—

Rate.		Principal outstanding.		
		£	s.	d.
2¾	- -	9,710	7	0
3	- -	19,737	12	11
3¼	- -	531,472	12	8
3⅜	- -	37,697	10	2
3½	- -	457,503	4	4
3¾	- -	1,328,581	3	11
4	- -	51,796	16	3
4¼	- -	165,237	18	8
		£2,601,737	5	11

The rate of interest on each loan was one of the conditions on which the loan was made, and it would be contrary to the public interest to allow the terms of such bargains to be set aside.

Amounts and Rates of Interest of Sums issued under the Glebe Loans Act, 1870.

MR. O'MARA: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will state the total amount issued under The Glebe Loans Act, 1870, by the Commissioners of Public Works, the average rate of interest charged, the principal repaid, and the principal now outstanding; and whether it is proposed to issue further sums under this Act.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*)—

	£	s.	d.
Total amount issued to 31st March 1906 -	647,574	8	0
Rate of interest charged, 3½ per cent. per annum.			
Principal repaid - -	352,947	2	11
Principal outstanding -	294,627	5	1

Loans are still being made under the Act which is renewed annually by the Expiring Laws Continuance Act.

Erection of National Schools in Ireland.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he will state whether any progress has yet been made in providing for extended building expenditure under Plan VI. for the erection of national schools in Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) No settlement has yet been reached, I am sorry to say, the Commissioners of National Education having objected to the new plans prepared by the Board of Works at the instance of the Treasury. The Commissioners have now been asked to submit for the consideration of the Irish Government and the Treasury, their own suggestions for plans for schools to be built in future years.

Pensions for Foremen in the Naval Ordnance Department.

Mr. J. WILLIAMS BENN (Devonport): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will take steps so that the scheme whereby 85 per cent. of the foremen of the Army Ordnance Department are placed on the pensionable establishment (70 General, No. 762, dated War Office June 1902) may be extended to the foremen of the Naval Ordnance Department, or that similar privileges may be extended as regards establishment, as are enjoyed by all other departments of the Admiralty; and also whether he is aware that the pay and increments of these foremen, are not equal to those enjoyed by men of similar rank at Woolwich and at certain Foreign depôts.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) As regards Woolwich, it has been approved to follow War Department lines for labour staff, and steps are now being taken to establish the principal foreman and 85 per cent. of the assistant principal foremen and foremen. The case of the other Naval Ordnance Depots is not yet settled, but it is expected a decision will be arrived at shortly.

Paying out of Guarantee Deposits under the Ashbourne Act.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether any modification of the rules for the paying out of guarantee deposits in the case of the sale of estates under the Ashbourne Act, have been made; and, if so, when these modifications came into force, or were they altered under the subsequent rules.

(*Answered by Mr. Cherry.*) The release of guarantee deposits retained in the case of sales under the Purchase Acts, 1885 and 1888, is now governed by the 68th Section of The Irish Land Act, 1903, which repeals Sub-section 3 of Section 29 of the Act of 1896, and enables the Irish Land Commission to pay out to the person entitled the whole, or part of any guarantee deposit so retained under these Acts, in the same manner as if they had been retained under The Purchase of Land Act, 1891. Order XV. of the Rules of the Land Commission of 4th December, 1903, merely rescinds the previous rule in reference to such guarantee deposits having regard to the change in the law. This is the only modification of which I am aware.

Alien Pilotage Certificates.

Sir SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been directed to the rush which is now being made by Foreign masters and mates for pilotage certificates before the Merchant Shipping Act comes into force; and whether he will insert in the Bill a provision, that no alien pilotage certificate will be renewed which has been taken out after the date of the introduction of his Bill.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) My attention was called to the point when the Bill was before the Standing Committee on Trade. I met it by moving an Amendment to the effect that the only pilotage certificates to aliens which should be renewable, were those which were granted before the 1st day of June 1906. This has now been inserted in the Bill.

Amersham Water Company and Private Fire Hydrants.

Mr. GROVE (Northamptonshire, S.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the Amersham Water Company have declared their intention to discourage fire hydrants to private houses, and have refused to allow consumers to put in the same at their own expense, except under conditions to be decided by the company; and whether, seeing that such a policy subjects life and property in the country to risk, in the interests of a private company, he proposes to take steps to remove this public danger.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I have no information as to the declaration referred to. The matter to which it relates is not one with respect to which I have any control over the water company, but I will communicate with them on the subject.

Fishery Laws in the Lough Erne District.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Royal Irish Constabulary have taken any steps, since the Report of the Fishery Commission presided over by Lord Chancellor Walker, to enforce the fishery laws in the Lough Erne District; whether they have instituted any, and, if so, how many prosecutions for illegal fishing and destruction of spawning fish in Lough Erne and its tributaries, and, if any, how many convictions resulted from their prosecutions; has it been left to the Conservators of Fisheries to preserve Lough Erne, which is vested in the Crown; and is any contribution on behalf of the Crown paid to the Conservators' funds.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed that since the year 1901 the police have reported to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction 17 cases of offences against the fishery laws in the Ballyshannon Fishery District, in which Lough Erne is situated. Prosecutions were instituted in all the cases, and fines were imposed in 13 of them. The duty of protecting the fisheries of Lough Erne rests primarily with the Board of Conservators, but the Commissioner of Woods informs me that he is willing to consider any practical suggestion as to how he can co-operate with the Conservators. No contribution is paid on behalf of the Crown to the funds of the Conservators.

Promotion in Irish Government Departments.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state why promotion in the Irish Government Boards is not carried out under the seniority system; and whether he can explain what is the meaning attached to the word merit which ensures promotions in certain cases in Ireland, and overrides the seniority rule which generally prevails in Government appointments.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will consider the advisability of appointing an impartial committee of inquiry into the methods of appointments and the rules governing promotions in Irish Government Departments.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that promotion by selection in the Irish Government Departments has given rise to discontent and consequent injury to the public service; and, seeing that promotion under this system lends itself least to favouritism, whether he will issue instructions to the heads of those departments to the effect that all promotions shall in future be made according to seniority and equality of efficiency.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Orders in Council applying to both the first and second divisions of the Civil Service of the United Kingdom generally provide that promotions shall be according to merit, not seniority. This rule was, I understand, established many years ago as the result of recommendations of commissions of inquiry into the Civil Service. I am not aware of any necessity for appointing a committee to inquire into the operation of the rule in Departments under the Irish Government, nor am I aware that any discontent in the matter exists in any of these Departments. I have no power, nor do I think it would be desirable, to issue instructions that promotions should be made according to seniority, without taking merit into account.

Duties and Pay of Attendants in the National Library of Ireland.

MR. HAZLETON (Galway, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in the National Library of Ireland the work of entering up the library ledgers, classifying books, corresponding with donors, listing parliamentary papers, and other clerical and technical work, formerly done by the assistant librarians, now forms part of the daily duties of some of the attendants; and whether he will take steps to secure that if men classed and paid as messengers are called upon to perform such duties they will be given opportunities of promotion and extra remuneration, as is the case in the library of the British Museum.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The entering of registers, which are described as ledgers, and the filling up of printed forms and copying, have for many years been recognised duties of library attendants. It would be going too far to say that the attendants classify books, though they assist in the work. Regard was had to these duties when the remuneration for attendants was being fixed.

Irish Agricultural Interests and Army Meat Contracts.

MR. P. A. MCHUGH (Sligo, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a copv of a Resolution, adopted by the Sligo Rural District Council at its meeting on May 30th ultimo, expressing alarm at the action of the War Office in altering the tenders of the supply of meat to the Army, and declaring such action to be seriously injurious to agricultural interests in Ireland; and what action, if any, does he propose to take in regard to this matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction are in communication with the Army Council in reference to this matter. I am not at present able to make a further statement on the subject.

Sale of the O'Grady Estate.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in the case of the sale of the O'Grady estate at Cam, county Longford, the agreements for sale have yet been lodged with the Estates Commissioners; and, if so, will an inspection be made.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that agreements for the purchase of holdings on the estate mentioned have not yet been lodged with them.

Erection of Pier at Bonmahon, County Waterford.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will consider the claim of Bonmahon, county Waterford, to have a pier erected so as to enable the copper ore, to raise which two limited companies have been formed, to be transported direct by sea to South Wales, and so as to revive the fishing industry which was formerly of an important character.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed that when the mines at Bonmahon were worked in former days a pile jetty, the remains of which recently existed, was built by the mining company. The bay in which the jetty was situated is exposed, and, in the opinion of the Department of Agriculture, no harbour works that would give protection to fishing boats, except such as could be hauled up, could be erected without enormous cost. In the year 1902 the county council offered to contribute £1,000 towards the cost of a fishery pier, provided £2,000 were forthcoming from Government funds. The Department, however, were of opinion that no work which did not involve an expenditure of much more than £3,000 would provide accommodation for both the mining and fishing industries. Only three or four row boats fish out of Bonmahon.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of Laurence M'Evoy.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether an application for reinstatement has been made to the Estates Commissioners on behalf of the representative of the late Laurence M'Evoy, who was evicted from his farm at Johnsgrove, Mountmellick, Queen's County, in 1882, for non-payment of one-and-a-half year's rent, the yearly rent being £232; and whether, seeing that the farm has been since let for £110 a year, and that the present occupier, Mrs. Neale, is willing to surrender the holding under conditions, the Estates Commissioners will open negotiations with Mrs. Neale with the object of restoring the evicted tenant's representative to the holding.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners have referred the application in question to their inspector for inquiry, and until his report has been received they are unable to say what action they may take in the case.

Construction of a Causeway at Dungarvan.

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.) To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received copies of Resolutions passed by the Waterford County Council, the Dungarvan Urban Council, and the Dungarvan Rural Council, with reference to the construction of a causeway from Dungarvan across the narrow and shallow channel which separates it from the promontory called the Cunnigar; whether he is aware that by the construction of this causeway, about one-fourth of a mile in length, over 8,000 acres of rich slob lands, usually covered with water from one to two feet in depth, can be reclaimed for the public benefit; whether he will refer to the memorial laid before the Secretary of State for India, when Chief Secretary for Ireland, on this subject; and whether he will take an early opportunity of visiting the district, and meanwhile obtain a report as to the feasibility of this work, which would greatly benefit the fisheries of the poorest district on the South coast of Ireland, namely Ballinagoul.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I have received the Resolutions referred to, and have called for reports on the subject, though I am afraid that funds are not at present available for any works of the kind. I have seen the memorial which was presented in 1894 to the then Chief Secretary. Should I at any time find myself in the neighbourhood of Dungarvan, I will endeavour to make an opportunity of visiting the Cunnigar.

Inland Drainage System in Ireland.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a Resolution from the Greilly and Castlesaunderson districts of county Cavan pointing out the urgent necessity for a thorough inland drainage system in the country; and will the matter have his immediate attention.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I have received the Resolution in question, which urges the necessity of a system of inland drainage in the county, and suggests that it should be entrusted to county and district councils. The consideration of this matter must await the Report of the Arterial Drainage Commission at present sitting.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Naval Officers' Eyesight.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Board are aware that failure of eyesight does take place in some cases after the first test of officers at the age of about thirteen years; and whether in view of the increasing speed of ships and the fact that gun fire may be opened in action at such long ranges as 10,000 yards, the Board are prepared to test the eyesight of all officers filling responsible positions in charge of His Majesty's ships or their armaments.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): Failure of eyesight does take place in some cases after the first test of vision at the age of about thirteen. Officers are from time to time invalided from the Service on account of this during their subsequent careers when the defect is brought to notice, and is considered sufficiently serious to render them unfit for their special work. The proposal contained in the second part of the Question is considered unnecessary, it being every captain's duty, in furnishing confidential reports on his officers, to specify any physical defects that may impair an officer's fitness for the duties assigned to him.

MR. BELLAIRS: May I ask who is to make these reports when the captain himself is short-sighted? I can give the hon. Gentleman specific cases in the Royal Navy.

[No Answer was returned.]

Admiralty Glass Contracts.

MR. STAVELEY HILL (Staffordshire, Kingswinford): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty why the usual custom of inviting tenders from British glass manufacturers, for the supplies of glass ware to the Admiralty, has this year been departed from.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Revised patterns of table glass—to which it is understood the Question refers—were instituted this year. The firm from whom they were obtained went to a great deal of trouble to assist the Admiralty in the matter, and, in accordance with the usual custom in such cases, the first order was placed with them, their quotation being very reasonable. In future orders the contract will be open to competition.

History of the South African War.

MR. H. R. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether a chapter or chapters will be found in the official History of the South African War on the transactions in war stores and the revelations concerning the management of these commissariat services, including a summary of the Butler Report and the forthcoming Report of the War Stores Commission.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddingtonshire): There is no intention of reproducing in the official History of the War in South Africa the matter which will be published with the Report of the War Stores Commission.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S): When is this famous work coming out? We are all anxious to see it.

[No Answer was returned.]

Army Meat Contracts.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that a feeling of alarm has been created amongst agriculturists in Ireland owing to the action of the War Office in altering the tenders for the supply of meat to the Army; whether he is aware that many meetings of public bodies have been held throughout the country, at which Resolutions have been passed declaring that such action on the part of the War Office will be detrimental to the best interests of the farming classes in Ireland; and whether, in view of such facts, he is prepared to take any action in the matter.

MR. HALDANE: Representations on this subject have reached the War Office, but I see no reason to reverse the decision of the War Office in regard to the tenders for the supply of meat to the troops.

LORD TURNOUR (Sussex, Horsham): Has the right hon. Gentleman also received representations from any bodies of English agriculturists?

MR. HALDANE: I am not sure; I think it is very likely I have.

Despatches to the Commonwealth Government.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the dissatisfaction expressed at the marking of despatches to the Commonwealth Government as "Confidential," he can promise that all despatches on public affairs may be published if so desired by the Commonwealth Government for the information of the public in Australia.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): The Secretary of State has received no such request as that contained in my hon. friend's Question from the Commonwealth Government; and it is clear that such a rule as he is seeking to establish would prove absolutely fatal to the freedom of official correspondence in all matters, most of all in those which relate to negotiations with foreign governments.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Has the hon. Gentleman's attention been called to the statements of the Prime Minister of the Commonwealth and also of the late Mr. Seddon complaining that despatches which they deemed to be of interest to the Australian public are marked "Confidential?"

MR. CHURCHILL: I have. I can assure the hon. Member that the Secretary of State will do everything in his power to meet the wishes of the Colonial Prime Minister in this matter.

Transvaal Tariff.

Mr. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the new tariff proposed for the Transvaal will be introduced before responsible Government is granted; if so, whether it can be laid upon the Table of the House, together with the present tariff, before it is so introduced into the Transvaal Legislative Assembly; and whether this contemplated tariff provides for preferential treatment of Cape Dop brandy.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The increased duties under the new tariff came into effect from May 25th. It was laid upon the Table last month. The hon. Member will find it in Cd. 2977 and the previous tariff of 1903 in Cd. 1599. Preferential treatment of spirits manufactured within territories forming the Union is secured by a Customs Duty and Excise not exceeding 2s. per Imperial Proof Gallon, whilst imported spirits are subject to a duty per proof gallon of not less than 19s.

Mission Services in Malta.

Mr. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the fact that the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Malta in a letter, dated the 6th ultimo, to the Governor, stated that the conducting of a Protestant mission in the Theatre Royal would constitute a violation of the pledges made by His Majesty's Government, he can state what these alleged promises were.

Mr. SILCOCK (Somersetshire, Wells): May I also ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can inform the House what are the pledges to which the Archbishop of Malta refers in his recently published letters to the Governor as having been made by the British Government to the Roman Catholic Church in Malta; are they such as to interfere with the liberty of British subjects in the Island who are not members of that Church; and is the holding of religious meetings in the theatre a breach of the promises made by the British Government.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State is not aware to what pledges the Archbishop of Malta referred. The only promise made at the time when Malta passed under British control was that the King would protect the churches and religion of the Maltese: and the only restriction to which other religious bodies than Roman Catholics are now subject is that processions and other ceremonies are not allowed to take place in public. It will be seen from the correspondence about to be laid before Parliament that the Governor refused to admit the Archbishop's contention that the holding of a religious meeting in the Theatre Royal was a departure made from any promises made by His Majesty's Government.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) asked whether the Under-Secretary was aware that the Rev. John McNeill had been prevented from holding services in Malta. Mr. McNeill was a highly respected and distinguished Member of the Presbyterian Church, who had never been known to use language of an insulting or irritating character towards Members of the Roman Catholic communion.

Mr. CHURCHILL: That is a very valuable tribute from which I should not desire in any degree to detract.

Opium Trade in India.

Mr. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the unanimous approval of the Opium Resolution by this House,† he can state what action, if any, he proposes to take in the matter.

*The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Mr. John Ellis, Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): In speaking on the Resolution referred to, the Secretary of State said His Majesty's Minister at Peking would very shortly be in this country, and we should then be able to learn from him exactly how the proposals and disposition of the Chinese Government stand.‡ The Minister is not yet in this country.

Mr. SLOAN: Will the result of the investigation, when made, be at once made known to the House?

*Mr. JOHN ELLIS: I cannot make any statement of that kind.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 516.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 514.

Governorship of Harrar.

Mr. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can state who has been appointed to succeed Ras Makunan, as Governor of Harrar.

The SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick): No successor has yet been announced. As soon as one is appointed, we shall be informed by His Majesty's Representative in Abyssinia.

Trading Stamps.

Mr. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the Bill recently introduced in the Jersey States Assembly, prohibiting under severe penalties the use of trading stamps as an unfair means of trading; and whether, in view of the danger of intimidation of small traders arising from the use of trading stamps in this country, he will consider the advisability of introducing similar legislation for the United Kingdom.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.): I regret that I do not see my way to introduce legislation of the nature suggested by the hon. Member. The *Réglement* passed by the States of Jersey in February last did not become law, and the question is still under their consideration.

Mr. J. WARD: Is the right hon. Gentleman not aware that the States Assembly in Jersey has introduced still more stringent legislation on this subject?

*Mr. GLADSTONE: I am not aware. I have no information as to that.

Mr. J. WARD: I will send some to the right hon. Gentleman.

The Wreck of the "Courier."

Sir W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been directed to the shipwreck of the "Courier" off Guernsey, on April 30th last, and to the evidence taken at the inquest held on one of the seven persons who were drowned; whether, in view of the evidence given, and of the fact that the law relating to navigation in the Channel Islands differs from the Imperial Merchant Shipping Act, he will direct that a public inquiry be held into all the circumstances connected with this disaster.

*Mr. GLADSTONE: I beg to answer this Question on behalf of my right hon. friend. A full public inquiry has already been held at the inquest, which took place before the Royal Court presided over by the Bailiff, Sir Henry Giffard, K.C., and as the result proceedings have been taken against Captain Whales and his pilot's licence has been forfeited. As advised, I have no power to order any further public inquiry, but I am of opinion that the law in Guernsey ought to provide as effectually as English law for the safety of passengers and I propose to communicate with the Insular authorities on the subject.

Transit of Agricultural Produce.

Mr. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been drawn to a claim made by the Irish Co-operative Agency Society, Limited, Limerick, against the Great Western Railway Company of England and the London and South Western Railway Company over the smashing of boxes of butter, consigned to Haselmere Dairy, Haselmere, Surrey, in June, 1905; has any satisfactory settlement of the claim been made by the railway companies concerned; and, if not, will the Board of Trade take any action to compel those companies to fulfil their public obligations.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs): My attention had not been previously drawn to the claim to which the hon. Member refers, but I have forwarded a copy of his Question to the two railway companies mentioned, and have received their replies of which I am sending copies to the hon. Member. The case seems to be one in which the aggrieved party has an adequate legal remedy, and not one in which the Board of Trade can take action.

Post-Office Contracts with the Westminster Construction Company.

Mr. J. WARD: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he can give the following particulars with reference to the wages paid by the Westminster Construction Company when engaged on Post Office work in London and district, navvies and labourers per hour, ditto duct layers, timbermen, socket jointers, and gangers, with extra pay, if any, for overtime worked; also the average time worked per man winter and summer.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): The Company have furnished me with the following information. Their rates of pay to men employed on Post Office contract work in the London districts are: navvies per hour 7d. and 7½d.; labourers per hour 7d. and 7½d.; duct layers per hour 7½d.; timbermen per hour 7½d.; socket jointers per hour 7½d.; gangers per hour 8d. For overtime the system of the Company is to pay at the rate of a quarter of a day for two hours work, *i.e.*, approximately time and a quarter. The normal day's work is ten hours. The average time worked by each man could not be ascertained without much trouble and expense.

Mr. J. WARD: The wages paid to the duct layers and timbermen are not Trades Union rates. Will the right hon. Gentleman approach the firm on that point?

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: I will look into that matter.

Glasgow Post Office Medical Officer.

Mr. CLELAND (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General, when the vacancy at present existing in the post of medical officer to the post office at Glasgow will be filled.

Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): May I also ask the Postmaster General, what steps he proposes to take to fill the vacancy for the office of post office medical officer for Glasgow?

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: The district hitherto assigned to the medical officer at Glasgow has been too large for administrative convenience. Now that an opportunity of a re-arrangement has arrived, I propose to divide the district into several separate sections; and until a scheme has been decided upon I am unable to make any appointment.

Exemption from Rating for Schools.

Mr. J. WARD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he will make provision in the present Education Bill now before Parliament for exempting council schools from rating, as is the case at present with non-provided schools.

The PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.): As the whole question of rating is now under consideration and will doubtless have to be reviewed very thoroughly, it is not proposed to make any further extensions of the principle of exemption from rates in the present Bill.

Higher Education.

Mr. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he will introduce a measure for the co-ordination of the powers to aid higher education at present vested in the Board of Education, the Board of Agriculture, and the Treasury, with a view to removing the administrative difficulties arising under the present Law.

Mr. BIRRELL: I have nothing to add to the Answer which I gave yesterday to a similar Question on this subject beyond reminding the hon. Member that Section 2 (2) of the Board of Education Act, 1889, makes any such legislation as he suggests unnecessary so far as the Board of Agriculture is concerned, even if difficulties needing drastic remedies existed, which I do not think is the case. Nor am I aware of any administrative difficulties with the Treasury for which legislation is in any way required.

St. Joseph's School, Handsworth.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that in a communication from the Board of Education, dated February 28th, 1905, to the manager of St. Joseph's School, Handsworth, Sheffield, it was stated that it was for the Board to decide whether a school is efficiently maintained, and to take such steps as may appear necessary if they are not satisfied that the local education authority are properly carrying out their duties in this respect; can he state whether the local education authority is now maintaining that school efficiently; and, if not, what steps does he intend to take to compel it to do so.

MR. BIRRELL: So far as the board are aware the school is being efficiently maintained, and they do not know of any grounds for action being taken of the nature indicated by the hon. Member.

MR. BOLAND: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that in this case the local education authority, instead of giving the headmaster a salary of £140, is only giving him £90? Is that to be considered maintaining the school efficiently?

MR. BIRRELL: All we have to do is to get a report whether the school is or is not efficiently managed. We are told it is. I will, however, look into the matter.

Charity Commission Fund Investment

MR. H. R. MANSFIELD: I beg to ask the hon. Member for the Elland Division, as a Parliamentary Charity Commissioner, if he can state the amount of capital invested by the Charity Commissioners in foreign securities and the amount of agricultural land sold by the Charity Commissioners during the last ten years.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): The investments of capital directed by the Commissioners are limited to securities authorised for trust funds by the rules of Court, and are not made accordingly in foreign securities. The amounts so invested by founders or trustees which have been transferred to, and are now held by, the official trustees are as follows—

	£
Foreign Government Funds	11,600
Other Foreign Securities	56,500

Statistics of the amount of land sold with consent of the Commissioners have been recorded only for the last four years, in accordance with the promise made by them on July 29th, 1901, at request of the hon. Member for the Ilkeston Division of Derbyshire, distinguishing, however, merely between land in urban and rural districts. The amount sold in the four years in rural districts was 5,727 acres, of which the bulk was probably agricultural land.

Sutherland Deer Forest.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that within the last twelve months three homesteads have been broken up near Kinbrace, Sutherland, comprising over 1,000 acres, the houses on two of them blown up by dynamite, and the farms, nearly one-third of which was arable land, turned into a deer forest; and whether the Government intend to take steps to prevent such clearances in future.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): As I have no information as to the facts alleged, I can make no statement of policy.

MR. MORTON: Will the right hon. Gentleman make inquiries?

MR. SINCLAIR: Yes, Sir.

Irish Magistracy—Appointment Fees.

MR. CONDON (Tipperary, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that the fees payable on the appointment of a county justice of the peace in England and Wales amount to £2 altogether, and only to 5s. if the commission is conferred by reason of the holding of an office such as the chairmanship of the county council; what are the fees payable in Ireland in these cases, respectively; and whether he will take steps to give Ireland equality of treatment in this matter.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool Exchange): The statement in the Question of the amount of fees payable on the appointment of county magistrates in England and Wales is not quite accurate, as can be seen by reference to the Parliamentary Return ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on April 20th, 1894. (Parliamentary Paper No. 82.) No fees of any kind are now payable on the appointment, or swearing in, of ex-officio justices, such as chairmen of councils under the Local Government Act. Such justices can be sworn in without the payment of any fee before resident magistrates sitting at petty sessions. The

Commission of the Peace issued to ordinary magistrates must, under the Rules of Court made pursuant to the Judicature Act of 1877, bear judicature stamps denoting the payment of £6. This fee is collected in the Crown and Hanaper Office, and transmitted through the Inland Revenue to the receipts of the Public Exchequer. No other fees of any kind are payable in respect of the appointment or swearing in of a magistrate in Ireland.

MR. CONDON: What are the fees payable in England?

MR. CHERRY: I believe they vary in different counties. The hon. Member can see by referring to the Parliamentary Paper I have quoted.

Mallow Rent Appeals.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the action of Mr. J. G. Kelly, Assistant Land Commissioner, in raising the rent of James O'Flynn, of Cecilstown, Castlemagner, Mallow, from £94 7s. to £96 13s. 6d.; is he aware that Coroner Byrne, a land valuer of experience, valued the holding at £73 6s., and that the original rent of £94 7s. was fixed by the landlord, the late Sir Henry Beecher, twenty-five years ago; and will he say what qualifications and experience in valuing land does Mr. Kelly possess; and whether instructions to have due regard to Section 8, Sub-section (9), of of the Act of 1881, are issued to the Sub-Commissioners.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): The hon. Member appears to have been misinformed as to the facts of this case. According to the information supplied to me by the Land Commission, Mr. O'Flynn is the tenant of three holdings, the rents of which were judicially fixed by the Sub-Commission last month. The sum of the rents which have now been judicially fixed for a first statutory term, is £96 13s. 6d.; but the sum of the former rents was £132 10s., and not £94 7s. as stated. I have no information as to Mr. Byrne's valuation of the holdings. Mr. Kelly's qualifications and experience are stated in Parliamentary Paper No. 151 of 1902. The Land Commission do not issue instructions to Sub-Commission Courts as to the performance of their judicial functions.

Caldbeck Estate, Queen's County.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in the proposed sale of the Caldbeck Estate, Ballacolla, Queen's County, one-half of which is untenanted, the landlord has parcelled out the greater portion of the latter amongst the eleven months' graziers for the purpose of the sale; and, seeing that part of the estate is congested and the small tenants and labourers have applied for a division of the untenanted land, whether he can say what course the Estates Commissioners propose taking in the case.

MR. BRYCE: I beg to refer to my reply to the hon. Member's Question on this subject on Thursday last.† As I then stated, the Estates Commissioners themselves propose to make an offer for the purchase of this estate.

Irish Teachers.

MR. EDWARD BARRY (Cork County, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether teachers completing their course of training in the year 1900, when new rules were issued, have since got special consideration given to their cases; whether such teachers being induced to join the service by the belief that the rules and salaries existing at the time of their entry would be continued have not been misled and injured by the changes made in the year 1900, and which, if issued earlier, would have kept many of them out of the service; whether, seeing that those men feel that there has been a breach of contract with them, steps will be taken to have the cases of all men who completed a two years' course of training in the year 1900 fully inquired into; whether he is aware that W. J. Murphy, of Coolmountain National School, Dunmanway, is one of those teachers, and that on appointment to principalship this man lost the bonus which he would get as assistant after five years' service, and has had no other increase to his salary;

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† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 1155.

and, seeing that this is a type of the favourable consideration which the Commissioners give to those teachers induced to join the profession under false pretences, he will say what action he proposes to take.

MR. BRYCE: The Commissioners of National Education inform me that the reply to the first inquiry is in the affirmative. They tell me that since the foundation of the system they have made many changes in the mode of promoting teachers and of remunerating them, that all teachers entering the service know that the rules of the service are subject to change from time to time, that the teachers have not been misled or injured by the new rules, and, indeed, that most of the changes made in 1900 had been agitated for by the teachers themselves for years before. This was the case especially with regard to the abolition of the results payment system and of the system of promotion by examination; the introduction of the consolidated salary with periodic increments; and the freedom of instruction in the schools. The new regulations would, in the Commissioners' opinion, have been subjected to precisely the same criticisms if issued earlier as they were when issued in 1900. There has, the Commissioners inform me, been no breach of contract with the teachers either generally or individually. The vested rights of all teachers in the service prior to 1900 were conserved, so far as it was possible to do so, by regulations made for the purpose, and all exceptional cases were specially considered. I am forwarding to the hon. Member full particulars of the case of Mr. Murphy. His present income as principal teacher is higher than it would have been if he had remained an assistant teacher, and he is eligible for promotion to the first grade, whereas if he had remained an assistant he could not have proceeded beyond the third grade. These matters are within the control of the Commissioners and do not call for action on the part of the Irish government.

Irish Fisheries.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that since the introduction of steam trawling upon the south coast of Ireland the supply of trawl fish has greatly diminished, and the price of same largely increased and the number of fishermen employed in fishing has largely decreased; is he aware that the inspectors of fisheries have the power to make bye-laws prohibiting steam trawling in areas outside the three-mile limit; did those who signed the memorial recently addressed to the inspectors of fisheries from Dunmore East, county Waterford, ask the inspectors to exercise those powers; and, if so, could he state on what ground that application was refused.

MR. BRYCE: A proposed extension of the area off the coasts of the counties of Cork, Waterford, and Wexford, in which steam trawling is at present prohibited, formed the subject of an exhaustive inquiry held by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction at Dunmore East on May 3rd and 4th, 1906. The Department did not consider that the circumstances of the case were such as would warrant them in submitting for the approval of the Lord-Lieutenant in Council any bye-law increasing the area in which steam trawling is prohibited. The prohibited area already extends to places at a greater distance than three miles from the shore. In reply to a further Question, Mr. Bryce said there were differences of opinion as to whether trawling did diminish the supply of fish.

MR. JOYCE: It affects the fishermen.

Housing of the Working Classes in Irish Towns.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the need for better housing of the artisans and labourers in the towns of Ireland, he can promise that the matter will engage the attention of the Government at an early date.

MR. BRYCE: I am aware of the need mentioned in the Question and of the importance of the subject generally, and I hope that it may be possible to find time before long to consider what should be done to amend the law bearing on it. So many other urgent questions are before the Irish Government at this moment that

I cannot at present make any more definite statement.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that his predecessor in office (the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover) promised to introduce legislation on this matter, and in considering this question will he also bear in mind the Report of the Conference on the Housing of the Working Classes recently held in Dublin.

MR. BRYCE: I was not aware of the promise. I will bear in mind the Report referred to.

Irish Lunacy Grant.

MR. COGAN (Wicklow, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will cause steps to be taken to recoup the county and borough councils from the local taxation account their rateable share of the sum of £37,030, which was voted to that account in the year 1900, as capitation grant for the maintenance of lunatics for the period of three months, from January 1st to April 1st, 1898.

MR. BRYCE: The hon. Member is under a misapprehension. No recoupment to county and borough councils is called for by the circumstances. In no year have the councils received less than a full twelve months' grant. The necessity for taking the Supplementary Vote of the year 1900 arose from a change in the financial year of local authorities, and the object of the Vote was merely to adjust accounts between the Parliamentary Vote and the local taxation account, as the hon. Member will see by referring to Parliamentary Paper No. 280 of July 17th, 1900.

MR. COGAN asked whether the county and borough councils were not compelled to strike a rate for fifteen months in consequence of the change.

MR. BRYCE: That may be so, but the fact remains that all they can receive for public funds they have got.

Sheep Dipping in Ireland.

MR. DELANY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any representations have been made by the Irish Agricultural Department to the Irish Government, in reference to the utilisation of the services of the Royal Irish Constabulary in connection with compulsory sheep dipping in Ireland; and, if so, with what result; and whether he will lay upon the Table of the House copies of any correspondence that may have taken place on the matter.

MR. BRYCE: Representations to the effect stated have been made by the Department of Agriculture, and the Inspector-General offers no objection to the proposal that the police should give such assistance to local authorities in the matter as they may be qualified to give, and as their primary duties may permit. The extent to which this may be possible is under consideration. It would be contrary to practice to lay upon the Table of the House the correspondence which passes between Departments of the Government.

Reenard Pier.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that he has recently held a personal inspection of the pier accommodation at Reenard, near Cahirciveen, he is now in a position to state what steps will be taken to construct a suitable pier at this point under the provisions of the Marine Works Act.

MR. BRYCE: Since my inspection of the pier accommodation at Reenard, I have asked the Board of Works to report upon the best method of effecting improvements, in the event of its being found possible to provide funds for the purpose. It will, I imagine, take the Board some little time to make the necessary investigation.

Kerry Evicted Tenant.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Earl of Kenmare, when approached by the Estates Commissioners as to the reinstatement of Mr. Daniel Shea, an evicted tenant in county Kerry, made a claim for £500 or thereabouts as a condition of reinstatement; will he say whether the Commissioners were aware of the full counter-claim of the evicted tenant against this sum claimed by Lord Kenmare; and whether the Commissioners will further negotiate with Lord Kenmare, and represent to him the claims of the evicted tenant, with the view of effecting Mr. Shea's reinstatement in his farm, as it is at present unoccupied.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that in pursuance of the fourth regulation of those dated February 13th, 1906, they approached Lord Kenmare's agent on March 22nd last, with the object of endeavouring to effect a settlement of the case of Daniel Shea. In reply they were informed that the owner would reinstate Shea in the holding from which his mother was evicted upon his paying a sum of £504, the amount of rent and costs due at the date of the eviction. The Commissioners are not aware of the particulars of any counterclaim which the evicted tenant may have against the sum mentioned; and in any event they have no power to enforce the reinstatement of this tenant against the will of the landlord.

MR. MURPHY asked if the right hon. Gentleman would represent to the Estates Commissioners the desirability of greater activity in dealing with these cases.

MR. BRYCE: I understand that the Commissioners have done all they can in the matter. Their powers are limited, but if the hon. Member will address to me any communication containing additional information I will forward it on to them.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) suggested that where the police were engaged in protecting land grabbers on these farms they should be withdrawn.

MR. BRYCE: That raises a question of an entirely different nature.

MR. FLAVIN: It would, at any rate, very soon bring the landlords to their senses.

Sale of Leitrim Bogs.

MR. T. SMYTH (Leitrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state who divided the bogs on the estate of the Duc de Stackpool at Cloontabrit, in the county of Leitrim, which has been sold to the tenants recently; if he is aware that some of the tenants, including Mrs. Mary Donnelly, James Cassells, Patrick Reynolds, and William Cox, were allotted portions of the bog which are worthless; and if he can state for what reason those particular tenants got such lots, while other tenants got the best portions of the bog.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that no proceedings for the purchase of the estate in question have been instituted before them, and they have no knowledge of the matters referred to.

Leitrim Evicted Tenant.

MR. T. SMYTH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Estates Commissioners have received an application for reinstatement from an evicted tenant named Francis McHugh, who formerly lived at Drumallow, Cloone, county Leitrim, on the Madden estate; and, as this estate has been sold a short time ago to the tenants, if he can state will McHugh be reinstated on his former holding, or will the Estates Commissioners provide him with another holding on the estate.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners have received from Francis McHugh an application for reinstatement, and will have the case inquired into by the inspector when he visits the estate.

Irish Mackerel Exports to Chicago.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the statement, on page 25 of the latest Consular Report from Chicago, to the effect that, as a result of a visit of an official of the Irish Congested Districts Board, the importation of Irish mackerel into Chicago has increased from £550 in 1902 to £8,197 in 1905; and whether, with a view to the further development of the export of Irish mackerel to America, he will take steps to have this information circulated in the fishing districts of the West Coast, and to secure the adoption of a brand for Irish cured fish, with a view to maintaining the position now held by it in the American market.

Mr. BRYCE: The official in question was sent in the year 1901 by the Department of Agriculture to visit and report on those American markets in which Irish cured mackerel and herrings are sold. As a result, the Department have been able to bring Irish curers and American buyers into touch with each other. Irish curers generally are well aware of the market for their fish which exists in Chicago. The official above referred to also reported that a Government brand for Irish mackerel consigned to America would possess no value. The principal curers in Ireland, who were consulted, were not in favour of such a brand.

Town Tenants Bill.

Mr. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a resolution from the Cavan Urban District Council urging the necessity of passing the Town Tenants Bill; and, in view of the situation at present existing in Mr. Mulligan's case at Arva, county Cavan, will he state the Government's intentions on this measure?

Mr. BRYCE: The resolution referred to has been received. I have communicated with the Prime Minister regarding the Town Tenants Bill, and he authorises me to say that the Government are willing to facilitate the reference of this Bill to one of the Standing Committees of the House, and to give a reasonable amount of time—I trust that only a very short time will be needed—to the Motion to that effect now standing on the Order Book. This arrangement is made on the understanding that the parts of the Bill which might give rise to lengthened discussion will be dropped in Committee so as to facilitate the passage of the measure.

Irish Poor Law Commission.

Mr. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now name a date for presenting the Report of the Poor Law Commission, Ireland; what has been the cause of the dates previously indicated being so much exceeded; and whether he is aware that local authorities, pending receipt of the Report, have preferred to delay incurring large outlays for improvements on their buildings, but are now being pressed by the Local Government Board.

Mr. BRYCE: I am informed by the Chairman of the Poor Law Reform Commission that the Commissioners have not yet agreed upon quite all the questions that must be dealt with in their Report. An agreement has, however, been arrived at between the Commissioners upon nearly all the points involved in the reference and dealt with in their draft Report, which has been in print for some time. The Commissioners, while expecting to report without much further delay, cannot fix a date for the presentation of their Report. The Local Government Board are aware that some local authorities are delaying the carrying out of improvements on their buildings pending the receipt of the Report, and, except in cases in which the work is of an urgent character, no pressure is being put upon these authorities by the Board.

Mr. BARRIE: But on May 10th last the right hon. Gentleman told me that the Report was then in the hands of the printers.† Why this long delay?

Mr. BRYCE: Alterations are often made in Reports after they are in proof. It seems that the anticipation of an early complete agreement among the Commission then entertained has not been realised.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): Has not the delay been in part caused by the chairman of the Commission being engaged on another inquiry?

Mr. BRYCE: I have no reason to think that.

Mr. BARRIE: Will the right hon. Gentleman address a remonstrance to the Commission and press on them the urgency of sending in the Report.

Mr. BRYCE: I will convey to the Commission the information that the Report is anxiously awaited, although I think they know that already.

Macroom Gun Licence Prosecution.

Mr. SHEEHAN (Cork County, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 1491.

Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Patrick J. Long, of Rylane sub-district, Macroom, recently applied for a Peace Preservation Act licence for keeping a gun, and that his application was refused without any cause whatever being assigned; and whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

MR. BRYCE: The power of issuing licences under the Peace Preservation Act is vested in the resident magistrate of the district. I am imformed that in the present case the resident magistrate, in the exercise of the discretion vested in him, declined to issue a licence. It would be contrary to practice to state in this House the grounds upon which a licence is refused.

Cavan Evicted Tenant.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received an application for reinstatement from one John Reilly, Killeshandra, who was evicted from his holding in Crenagh Glebe in March, 1883; has the landlord, M. E. Moore, been approached; and, if not, are any steps being taken in the matter.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners have received the application in question, and have referred it to one of their inspectors for inquiry with a view to effecting a settlement.

Instruction in the Irish Language.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, under the new scheme for the teaching of Irish, the services of a large number of extern teachers, teaching a much larger number of schools, have been put an end to and rejected by the new scheme and nothing is done to supply their place; and that as regards the teaching of Irish on the bilingual system, the Irish public are still in the dark as to what is proposed; and whether he proposes to secure the alteration of the scheme in the manner requested by the Gaelic League.

MR. BRYCE: The question whether it may be necessary or desirable to permit the employment of extern teachers under the new scheme for the teaching of Irish is under consideration, and so is the scheme for bilingual instruction. I am not at present in a position to make a statement upon these matters.

The Gaelic League and the Teaching of Irish.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the official statement made by the executive committee of the Gaelic League with reference to the revised scheme for the teaching of Irish in the national schools; whether he is aware that objection is taken by the Gaelic League on the grounds, amongst others, that infants and the first class have been excluded, that the proposed fees are so small as to be quite nugatory, and that the total expenditure in remuneration of the teaching of Irish has been reduced from about £12,000 to under £6,000, and perhaps to a much smaller amount; and can he say what steps he proposes to take in the matter with a view to giving effect to the changes requested by the Gaelic League.

MR. BRYCE: The abolition of the former scheme for the teaching of Irish was decided upon before His Majesty's present Government came into office, and they found that no provision was being made for giving further aid in the matter. The present provision is a new one, and is in addition to the £12,000 which was diverted by the late Government from the teaching of Irish to the payment of additional assistant mistresses. It is not the case that the total expenditure upon the teaching of Irish has been reduced to below £6,000. I do not quite know what changes the Gaelic League desire to be made. Everyone interested in the teaching of Irish has had full opportunity of stating views and offering suggestions. I have myself frequently invited suggestions, but though I have received objections and remarks on the general question, I have had hardly any positive suggestions for the improvement of this particular plan. Though the amount to be expended is smaller than under the former plan, there is every ground for expecting the educational results to be much better than were previously attained. It is the wish of the Irish Government to give every proper help to the teaching of Irish, subject to the condition that other essential subjects are not interfered with; and I believe the new scheme will have that effect. It is, however, a provisional scheme only, and I shall be happy during the next few months to reconsider the whole question, duly weighing any suggestions regarding the teaching of Irish which may be sent to me.

Irish Board of Works—Pensioned Officials.

Mr. JOYCE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that the following men got pensions from the Irish Board of Works: T. P. L. Crosthwaite, engineer; James Gulley, lock keeper; Daniel Morgan, lock keeper and collector; Cornelius Hogan, lock keeper and collector; and Mr. Bushel, also a lock keeper; and will he say what was the yearly pension in each case; and whether, taking all the circumstances into account, the claim of Robert M'Conkey, who was overseer of 210 miles of the Shannon for a long term of years, will be considered with a view to granting him a pension.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. McKenna, Monmouth, N.): The pensions referred to are as follow:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. T. P. S. Crosthwaite, M.I.C.E., inspector - -	125	0	0
M. J. Gulley, lock-keeper -	24	6	8
D. Morgan, Collector and lock-keeper - -	56	0	0
C. Hogan, collector and lock-keeper - -	33	6	8
P. Bushell, lock-keeper - -	13	10	0

(Bushell's pension has been suspended, as he has regained his health and has been re-employed at his own request.)

The largest gratuity which the rules permit has been granted to M'Conkey, and I am not prepared to make an exception in his case to the unbroken practice of treating overseers on the Shannon Navigation as not entitled to pension.

Ancient National Monuments in Ireland.

Mr. HAZELTON (Galway, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland will he state what is the annual sum allocated to the preservation of ancient and national monuments in Ireland and administered by the Commissioners of Public Works; from what source this sum is derived; and whether he will issue a detailed statement showing the manner in which this annual sum is expended.

Mr. McKENNA: The sum necessary for the preservation of ancient monuments is voted by Parliament and varies according to the estimated requirements of the year. For 1906–7 the sum inserted in the Estimate for Public Works, etc., Ireland is £351. The sum applicable to national monuments consists of the income derived from dividends on Consolidated Stock held by the Board of Works. For each of the two years to 31st March 1906 the amount of this income was £873 9s. 4d. In 1904–5—the last year for which I have information—the expenditure on ancient monuments was £516 6s 2d., and on national monuments £870 12s. 0d. I will furnish the hon. Member privately with statements of the detailed allocation of these sums, which are too long to be given in an Answer.

Irish Signatures on Post Office Orders.

Mr. EDWARD BARRY (Cork County, S.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that the postmaster of Skibbereen on 18th May refused to cash a post office order signed by Aine Ui Aunrachain, because she signed her name in Irish; whether steps will be taken to compel such men to accept signatures in Irish; and whether in future appointments of postmasters, especially in Irish-speaking districts, a knowledge of Irish will be an essential qualification.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: I regret to find that a clerk at the Skibbereen Post Office refused to pay the order in question under a misapprehension as to the rules on the subject which permit payment where there is no difficulty in identification of the payee. The order was presented again on the 7th June and duly paid; and an apology was subsequently tendered to the payee for the mistake.

Mr. Justice Grantham.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) asked the Prime Minister whether he proposed to give a day for the discussion of the Motion of the hon. Member for South Donegal, relating to the conduct of the hearing of the Yarmouth election petition by Mr. Justice Grantham.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Perhaps I may be allowed, in justice to the Prime Minister, to say that when I presented the memorial to him some three weeks ago, he most kindly acceded to the request for a day, but, of course, I did not press for any particular day.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): It is very difficult to find a day for a stray subject such as this, at this period of the session, but we think of devoting Friday fortnight to the Motion. The delay that has already occurred has been necessary because it is essential that the House should be in possession of the printed notes of what took place at the trial.

LORD R. CECIL: Do the Government contemplate interrupting the proceedings on the Committee stage of the Education Bill in order to take this Motion about the conduct of Mr. Justice Grantham?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The Education Bill is not put down for Friday.

LORD R. CECIL: Is it not intended to take that Bill on any Friday?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I can give no pledge as to that. At present it is not put down for any Friday.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would also cause the official notes of the Bodmin election petition to be circulated.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Circulate a copy of Mr. Justice Grantham's speech!

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): With the tears thrown in.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The Speaker has not yet received the Report in that case.

The Unemployed Bill.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): Can the Prime Minister now say when the Unemployed Bill will be introduced.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am afraid I cannot say anything definite. I have said a good deal that is indefinite already. The subject is not being lost sight of, and I fully expect ere long to be able to move in the matter.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Before this section of the session ends?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Oh, I think so.

Errors in Voting.

MR. MURPHY explained that during the late sitting that morning he had voted in the "No" lobby under the impression that a division was being taken on the closure. After he had passed the tellers he discovered that the Committee were voting on an Amendment relating to Part IV. of the Education Bill. He thought then that it would be possible for him to vote in the "Aye" lobby and get the clerk to strike out his name from the list of "Noes." He therefore went through the "Aye" lobby and came back immediately and informed the clerk, who told him—as he might have known he would—that he could do nothing. He therefore took the first opportunity to inform the Speaker. He regretted extremely that he should have committed this error, and his only explanation was that in the desire to do right he did wrong. He would be obliged if the Speaker would strike his name out of the "No" list and add it to the "Ayes."

*MR. SPEAKER: The division list will be altered in accordance with the desire of the hon. Member.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I desire to say that I also voted in both lobbies about half-past two o'clock, and the only explanation I can offer is that I did it by inadvertence.

*Mr. SPEAKER said that if the hon. Member would inform the clerks what the particular division was it would facilitate the correction of the lists.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir William Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures, in respect of the Dogs Bill: Mr. Weir; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Leicester Harmsworth.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee, That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following fifteen Members, in respect of the Labourers (Ireland) Bill: Mr. Bryce, Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland, Mr. John Redmond, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Hugh Barrie, Mr. Long, Mr. James Campbell, Mr. William O'Brien, Mr. Clancy, Mr. O'Shee, Mr. McHugh, Mr. Kendal O'Brien, Captain Donelan, and Mr. Halpin.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee, That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following fifteen Members, in respect of the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiry (Scotland) Bill: Mr. Younger, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, Mr. Gulland, Mr. Munro Ferguson, Mr. Smeaton, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Morton, Mr. Menzies, Mr. Murray, Mr. Findlay, Mr. Laidlaw, Major Anstruther-Gray, Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. M'Kinnon Wood, and Mr. Halley Stewart.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee, That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following fifteen Members in respect of the Charitable Loan Societies (Ireland) Bill: Mr. Bryce, Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland, Mr. John Redmond, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Barrie, Mr. Walter Long, Mr. James Campbell, Mr. William O'Brien, Mr. Clancy, Mr. O'Shee, Mr. Patrick McHugh, Mr. Kendal O'Brien, Captain Donelan, and Mr. Halpin.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee, That they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Labourers (Ireland) Bill:—The Lord-Advocate and Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. McKenna and Mr. Lundon.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee, That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Charitable Loan Societies (Ireland) Bill: Mr. Secretary Gladstone; and had appointed in substitution: Captain Craig.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee, That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following Member: Mr. Fetherstonhaugh.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee, That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, in respect of the Prevention of Corruption Bill [Lords]; Mr. Higham; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Pollard.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILLS.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE (IRELAND) BILL.

"To extend The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, to districts in Ireland in which it has not been adopted," presented by Mr. Bryce; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 259.]

DUBLIN POLICE BILL.

"To amend the Dublin Police Acts, 1837 and 1859," presented by Mr. Bryce;

to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 260.]

LUNACY (IRELAND) BILL.

"To correct a verbal error in Section 6 of The Lunacy (Ireland) Act, 1901," presented by Mr. Bryce; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 261.]

POLICE (SUPERANNUATION) BILL.

Lords' Amendment considered, and agreed to.

BANKERS (IRELAND) ACT REPEAL BILL.

"To repeal an Act passed in Ireland in 1759 relating to bankers," presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 262.]

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE (IRELAND) BILL.

"To amend the Judicature (Ireland) Acts, 1877 to 1897, and Section 6 of the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, and the Law relating to bankrupts and to the constitution of certain election courts in Ireland," presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 263.]

POST OFFICE SITES BILL.

Ordered, That Mr. Arkwright, Mr. Sydney Buxton, and Mr. G. Greenwood be Members of the Select Committee on the Post Office Sites Bill.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 2:—

Lord R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) moved to insert the word "educational" before the word "trust" in Sub-section (b). He said he hoped the Government would see its way to accept the Amendment which was of some importance. Trusts which affected a school were of two kinds. There were trusts which were educational and trusts which were not educational but charitable, and these latter were generally connected with some religious body. What he wished to submit was that if it were true that schools could be carried on as public elementary schools with trusts which were other than educational in their character, then those trusts should be preserved at all costs. The point he ventured to make was really an important one; it was whether they were right to over-ride, for the purposes of the Bill, trusts which were strictly religious or charitable in character. He was sure the right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Education would see that quite different considerations applied to such trusts.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of EDUCATION (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) replied that under the general scheme of the Bill the acquisition of school houses by local authorities was limited to the purposes of public elementary schools. Whilst the local authority was in possession of the school for the purpose of carrying out the work of a public elementary school it would not be hampered by any trust whatever. It would be dangerous to strike a distinction in the way indicated by the noble Lord between one trust and another. The only usage the public authority would have of the premises would be that of a public elementary school, and no trust of a religious character would in any way be affected, because the use of the premises for the purpose of such trust would be altogether outside the purposes for which the local education authority would require them.

Lord R. CECIL said he was very much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for his reply, but he did not think he had really met his point, because the framing of the clause was such as to leave it entirely in the discretion of the local authority. Let them take the case of a school used as a chapel on Sunday, and assume a hostile local authority or a local authority of a red tape description which came into the school and saw certain fittings and arrangements. He had in his mind a particular school in Sussex which was used for the purposes of a chapel, and he did not see anything to prevent their saying that that was inconsistent with their conception of what a school ought to be for the purposes of education, and they would be entitled to take away all the fittings which were necessary as a chapel in order to fit it for educational purposes. As long as they only took away things which had to do with education then, from the standpoint of this clause, he did not object at all; but he wished very much—and he attached great importance to the point—to limit the discretion of the local authority to the particular class of business with which they ought to interfere. He understood that the right hon. Gentleman did not object to the insertion of the word "educational," except that he distrusted the legal profession and was not quite sure what interpretation might be given to an innocent word by an unduly ingenious lawyer. He therefore asked him if he could not accept the word. He could not believe that anybody had any objection to it in principle, and he believed it would save the consciences of a considerable number of people.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said that the previous clause gave absolute unchecked power to the local authority to deal with any fittings or make any alterations they deemed necessary for the school, and he did not think the Amendment would effect the noble Lord's point.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 95; Noes, 357. (Division List No. 135.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster,Rt.Hn.Hugh O.
Aubrey-Fletcher,RtHon.SirH.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J. (CityLond.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir FrederickGeorge
Barrie, H.T.(Londonderry, N.)
Beach,Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cavendish, Rt. Hn.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis (Antrim,S.
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Govan
Fardell, Sir T. George
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon,SirW.Evans-(T'rHam.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy,Laurence(Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Heaton, John Henniker
Hervey,F.W.F. (BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Patterson
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long,Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin,S.)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Middlemore, JohnThrogmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Parker,Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Pease,Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Remnant, JamesFarquaharson
Roberts, S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Col. Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hn. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Smith, AbelH.(Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt.Hon.C.B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Lord Robert Cecil and Mr. Ashley.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Ambrose, Robert
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, JosephA.(Finsbury,E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey(Isle of Wight.)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.

Lord R. Cecil.

Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, John Williams (Devonport
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Burke, E. Haviland
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex E. Grinst'd)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph

Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Horniman, Emslie John
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Illingworth, Percy, H.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.

Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St Pancras, E.)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip

O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps,Col. Ivor (S'thampton
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Rbt. John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Holland
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richards,T.F (Wolverhampt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt.Hn.E. (Dundee)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradford
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel,Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, Chas E (Manchest'r
Scott,AH (Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F.(Leitrim,S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe.)
Tennant,SirEdward(Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas,DavidAlfred (Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward,John(Stoke-upon-Trent
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond(Merioneth)
Williams, L. (Carmarthen)
Wilson, Henry J.(York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh.,N.)
Wilson, P. W.(St. Pancras,S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) moved to omit the words " or in any way restrict their full control of the schools " at the end of Sub-section (*b*). The words did not appear to be necessary to strengthen the sub-section, and he thought it lay on those who had framed the Bill to justify their retention. The sub-section was perfectly clear and sufficient without the words. Surely the right hon. Gentleman could trust the local education authority to make a suitable bargain with the owners of a school without pinning them down in this way. Of course, it was perfectly right and proper that a trust should be so far changed and modified that a public elementary school could be carried on, but why put in words which were perfectly superfluous? The local education authority might make such alterations in the internal arrangements of a building as to render it unfit to be used on Saturday or Sunday for parochial or denominational purposes. The clause enabled the local authority to put up big divisions in the schoolroom which might make it absolutely unsuitable as a place for holding a public meeting, or any meeting at all.

Amendment proposed—

" In page 2, lines 5 and 6, to leave out the words ' or in any way restrict their full control of the school.' "—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, " That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. DILLON said these words ought to be left out, but his reason for saying so was not the same as that given by the hon. Member who moved the Amendment. The hon. Member had made the common mistake of confounding the word " school" with the word " schoolhouse." Sub-section (*a*) dealt with the building, and gave the local authority full power to make the very alterations the hon. Member was afraid of. Sub-section (*b*) dealt with the school as an entity apart from the building.

MR. BIRRELL indicated assent.

MR. DILLON said he saw that the right hon. Gentleman accepted his interpretation. If these words were left in this sub-section he thought a subsequent Amendment of which the right hon. Gentleman had given notice would be out of order. The right hon. Gentleman himself recognised the necessity for some qualification of the clause, and he was going to propose to add: "Nothing in this section shall prevent the granting or requiring of facilities for special religious instruction in accordance with this Act, or prevent a local education authority as a condition of an arrangement made under this section with respect to the use of the schoolhouse of an existing voluntary school, from giving an undertaking to give religious instruction which does not conflict with Section 14 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, in the school." He suggested that the right hon. Gentleman, if he did not decide to leave out the words to which the Amendment referred, should introduce some saving words so that his subsequent Amendment might be in order.

MR. BIRRELL said that the hon. and learned Member for Oxford University had pointed out to him the other day that the words "full control of the schools," might possibly interfere with the full effect of the facilities under Clause 3. He had at once acceded to the hon. and learned Member's view, whether he was right or wrong. He himself was advised that the hon. and learned Gentleman was wrong, but that was a secret. The first part of the Amendment, which appeared on the Paper that day in his name, he thought had got over the difficulty suggested by the hon. Member for East Mayo. He had no objection to the words "save as hereinafter provided" being added in order to make assurance doubly sure. "School" referred to the operation and work of the school, and not to the actual bricks and mortar. It was desirable that the local authorities, when they entered into an agreement, should have full control of the work of the school, and that was the reason why these words were put into the clause, and that they should not be allowed to fetter themselves by any restriction which would interfere with their rights to use the school premises of the public elementary schools. He did not think that it would be wise to omit the words altogether. The local education authority should not be allowed to better themselves, but he was quite prepared to accept the words suggested by his hon. friend in order to put it in proper order.

MR. DILLON: Does the right hon. Gentleman accept the words "or in any way which may be hereinafter provided"?

MR. BIRRELL was understood to assent.

LORD BALCARRES asked if the acceptance of the words "hereinafter provided" in any way conflicted with the purpose of delegation suggested by Clause 26.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that his view was that the facilities given under Clauses 3 and 4 might be regarded as inconsistent with the provision that these schools should be treated as provided schools. But he recognised that his difficulty had been met by the right hon. Gentleman. As to the last words of the clause he asked whether it would not be worth while to consider that there were a number of people in the country whom those words concerned, who had extraordinary ingenuity in raising difficulties. He did not aim at limiting the control of the local authorities as long as it extended merely to the time for the use of the school as a public elementary school. But there might also be cases in which something might be done by the local authorities in trenching on the rights of the owners of the schools, who might find their powers as to the use of the schools more limited than was necessary to ensure the rights of the local authority.

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster) said it seemed to him that the words of the clause as they stood gave to the local authority more power over the schools than was really intended. It would remove any ambiguity if these words were left out.

Lord R. CECIL said he could not but help thinking with the hon. Member for East Mayo that the effect of the clause as it stood would be to allow the local authorities to do anything they liked with the schoolhouses. Suppose there were pictures in the schoolhouse which the local education authority thought were superstitious, and wanted to remove them. There a difficulty would arise; and he asked the right hon. Gentlemen to consider this question from that point of view.

Amendment negatived.

Mr. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) thought that if the Amendment he now proposed to move were accepted it would put an end to all doubts upon the point. He did not wish to repeat what had been said in the previous debate, but he was sure that those who were in charge of the Bill would see the difficulty of using the word "school" in different ways. It was no doubt perfectly right for the President of the Board of Education to say that what he meant was the entity, but there was no such use of the English language in the Bill to indicate that what was meant was the entity. He thought it would be safer therefore to accept the wording of his Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 6, at end insert the words 'house during the time during which it is being used by the local education authority.'"

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY to the BOARD of EDUCATION (Mr. Lough, Islington, W.) said it was quite clear that, under the clause as it stood, the local authority could only get control of the schoolhouse during school hours, and under these circumstances the local authority had not and could not, except by going outside the provisions of the Bill, get any control over the schoolhouse except during the time in which it was handed over to them. That being so, he thought the acceptance of the Amendment would mean undue complication, and, in his judgment, it was quite unnecessary.

*Mr. TALBOT (Oxford University) said he had on the Paper an Amendment to add the words "as a public elementary school" at the end of the sub-section. He suggested that if the hon. Member for Cambridge University would consent to the insertion of his words at the end of his Amendment, the matter would be made quite clear. He would move the insertion of his words as an Amendment to the Amendment. What he desired was to make it clear that during the school days the local authority should have control, but for the rest of the days which were not school days the owners and managers should have ample and complete use for other purposes.

Amendment proposed to the proposed Amendment—

"At end, to add the words 'as a public elementary school.'"

Question, "That those words be there added," put and agreed to.

Question proposed, "That the words, as amended, be there added."

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir W. Robson, South Shields) said it seemed to him that the hon. Gentlemen who were responsible for the Amendment as it now stood would by endeavouring to meet a non-existent danger create a real danger. The wording of the sub-section was to the effect that the local education authority should have full control of the school when it was conducted as a public elementary school. The preceding sub-section dealt with school houses as such, but the sub-section they were at present discussing referred to the management of the school. If the Amendment were accepted, it would strike the word "school" out of the section, and in its place insert the word "schoolhouse," which would make the sub-section apply not to the management of the school but to the management of the schoolhouse.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON said what they, on the Opposition side of the House, wanted to ensure, was that the local education authority should not be able to say that owing to any ambiguity of wording they had some right to use the school otherwise than as a public elementary school.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) said the wording of the sub-section was not quite clear, owing to the use of the two words "schoolhouse" and "school." If hon. Members would refer to a paper which had been issued last week by the County Council of Kent, giving a description of the schools in that county, they would find that time after time the trusts were constituted in connection with the schoolhouse. Unless, therefore, they got rid of the trusts under this sub-section they had not got rid of them under any sub-section. It was not sufficient to say they were not merely dealing with the entity; they could not leave out of consideration the trusts which affected the schoolhouse itself.

MR. DILLON thought the introduction of the words which hon. Members desired would injure instead of improving the rights of school owners. The sub-section dealt not with the schoolhouse, but with the use of the school, which was a totally different matter. That was the purpose of the clause, and therefore the only purpose of the sub-section was to deal with the use of the schoolhouse for the purposes of carrying on a public elementary school. The section was designed to get rid of the right of the owner to break in and hold a bazaar during the school hours. He thought the point was absolutely clear.

MR. BIRRELL said he was perfectly satisfied with the clause as it stood, as it seemed to him to be most suitable for the purposes they had in view.

MR. RAWLINSON said all he desired was to prevent interference with the schoolhouse out of school hours. The words of the sub-section were very wide, and needed restricting.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said the Government had been more careful to provide for the absolute supremacy of the local education authority during school hours than to protect the owners out of school hours. If the Government would put in words to redress the balance, he thought it would probably satisfy his hon. friends.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N) pointed out that the wording of sub-section (1) clearly indicated that the local education authority was to have full control of the school only for the purposes of a public elementary school.

MR. BIRRELL said he had no objection whatever to the insertion of the words "as a public elementary school." They were all over the clause already. One thing was made perfectly plain, and that was that the only purpose of this clause was to put the local education authority in possession of the schoolhouse for a limited time for a limited purpose. But to oblige the hon. Member for Oxford University—a thing he was always very anxious to do—he would consent to the addition of those words.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 6, at end, to add the words 'as a public elementary school.'"—(*Mr. Talbot.*)

Question—"That those words be there added"—put, and agreed to.

*MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth) said the Amendment he desired to move ran as follows —

> "And save so far as any stipulation which may be made for giving in the schools such Christian teaching as may be given in the schools under Section 14 of the Elementary Education Act of 1870."

He moved that Amendment because he thought it would very much facilitate the working of the Bill, and in addition allow the owners of the voluntary schools and the local education authorities to embark on special facilities two days a week; it would also permit them to agree as to giving such Christian teaching as was permitted under the Cowper-Temple clause. If the Amendment was accepted by the Government the owners and trustees of voluntary schools would have the power of insisting upon this teaching. If they did not use the power they could not afterwards complain that the schools were irreligious schools seeing that they had not asserted their power to make them religious. But if they did use this power they would then demonstrate the fact that the objection to the Cowper-Temple teaching was not nearly so deep-seated in the Church of England as it was made to appear by bishops, clergy, and such of the laity as sympathised with them in an extreme form of opposition to the Bill. It might be held by some sections of the House that this was interfering with the absolute discretion of the local education authority. He had every confidence in the local education authority in the matter of religious instruction, and he believed the overwhelming majority of local education authorities would continue to give that kind of religious instruction which was permissible on all days other than those earmarked for special facilities. But he was inclined to think that the local education authorities would be very willing to have the power to make this bargain; that it should no longer be a matter of discretion whether in these schools there should be religious instruction or not, but that if it could be done it should be a definite bargain between these schools and the local authority that for all time, so far as there could be permanency in these matters, simple Christian teaching such as was permitted under the Act of 1870 should be part and parcel of the agreement between them. The power which he desired to give by this Amendment was perfectly clear to the Committee, and therefore he need not labour the point. It did not impose anything in a statutory sense, but left the owners of voluntary schools and the local education authorities free to enter into a bargain one with the other not merely for facilities but for the continuation of simple Christian teaching under the Cowper-Temple clause. He believed those among whom he sat, who represented the large Nonconformist bodies in this country, would agree that those bodies did desire to continue Bible teaching in their schools. If they desired, therefore, to continue it in their present schools they would desire to continue it in the schools taken over by the local education authorities from the churches. The acceptance of the Amendment would strengthen the Bill from a national point of view. He believed the Cowper-Temple teaching in our large towns had been very largely the work of the denominations themselves. He could speak certainly for Liverpool, where the representatives of the various denominations who fought hard for supremacy on the school board, when they found they could not carry out their own ideas, fell back in despair on their common Christianity with most excellent results. It was in order that there might be a continuation of this excellent policy that he now appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to say that an option should be given to the local education authorities and the owners of voluntary schools to enter into this bargain. He moved.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 6, at the end of the second sub-section, to add, 'And save so far as any stipulation which may be made for giving in the schools such Christian teaching as may be given in the schools under Section 14 of the Elementary Education Act of 1870.'"

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

LORD R. CECIL asked whether this Amendment was in order. He pointed out that in the body of the subsection it said—

"Free from any trusts or conditions which are not consistent with the conduct and management of the school as a public elementary school."

The Cowper-Temple clause was not inconsistent with the teaching of an elementary school.

*THE CHAIRMAN said it was for that reason that he ruled this Amendment out of order at the previous point. But the sub-section went on to say, "or in any way restrict the full control of the school." He thought the additional stipulation now proposed might restrict the full control of the school. It was a fine point, but he thought the Amendment was in order.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY: Would it not be equally in order for the Minister for Education to move his proviso now?

*THE CHAIRMAN: No.

DR. MACNAMARA said he could not imagine any managers making that demand, because they did not believe in it. The local authority might make a demand, but then they would have denominational teaching side by side with Cowper-Temple teaching, which was a perfectly impossible proposition. The proposal put down by the President of the Board of Education was a much more feasible one, because it did not lay down any compulsion. He thought the Amendment would be entirely unworkable, for they could not have Roman Catholic teaching, for instance, going on side by side with Cowper-Temple teaching.

MR. BIRRELL said he hoped the hon. Member for East Toxteth would see his way to withdraw his Amendment, because the Government could not accept it, and his object would be met by the Government proposal.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he was in favour of the view expressed by the Minister for Education in his Amendment, which was that there should be freedom on the part of the owners of the schools to make arrangements with regard to religious education. He thought it was just one of those cases in which the phrases "Cowper-Templeism" and "simple Bible teaching" and the rest of it were liable to the greatest misuse and produced the gravest misunderstanding. If he were the owner—as he was not—of a school and if he had to make a bargain with a local authority, he would strive to get teaching consistent with Section 14 of the Act of 1870, but by no means in conformity with that rather jejune instruction which went by the name of Cowper-Templeism. If he were the owner of a voluntary school he should try to get some arrangement which would suit not only Churchmen but all bodies of Christians in the district and not confine it to what was sometimes called Cowper-Templeism, the fatal ambiguity of which phrase was always leading them astray both in this House and outside it. He thought it was most desirable that under such an arrangement full liberty should be given to the voluntary schools.

*MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

The Chairman called upon Mr. Middlemore.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he desired on a point of order to remind the Chairman that Clauses 3 and 4 would be discussed under great difficulties by this Amendment.

MR. DILLON asked if he might move the Amendment standing in the name of the hon. and learned Member for North Louth.†

*THE CHAIRMAN: That Amendment is not in order. It deals with the rights of children attending those schools, and therefore it is a matter of attendance and not schoolhouses.

MR. DILLON said they had had a long discussion in which they had all agreed that this particular sub-section did not deal with schoolhouses but with the conduct of the school, and in that respect he submitted that the marginal note was wrong, or at any rate open to correction.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Of course I cannot lay much stress upon the marginal note, but I do lay stress upon the general scope of the clause, which has nothing to do with the attendance of children. Although I should be glad to have the point discussed, I really cannot allow it here.

MR. MIDDLEMORE (Birmingham, N.) said this sub-section proposed to invalidate trusts, or at any rate the religious part of them. The particular sub-section which he moved to omit invited trustees to take part in invalidating trusts which it was their duty to protect, and therefore it invited them to do an act of great wickedness and treachery. These persons had accepted their trusteeship and had signed a document to say that they would maintain those trusts, and now they were being invited to do something in opposition to their written word. This was adding insult and almost infamy to what was little short of robbery. John Stuart Mill laid down the principle that a trust should be maintained as long as the foresight of the person who founded it could be reasonably supposed to extend. Now they were proposing to ask trustees to be parties to this confiscation. He felt very strongly on this point, and he begged to move his Amendment.

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† The Amendment referred to was as follows:—"In Clause 2, page 2, line 6, at end, to insert, 'Provided that, after a school has been transferred, the children of parents belonging to a denomination in respect of which a trust existed affecting such school may continue as of right to attend same from any part of an urban or rural area.'"—(*Mr. T. M. Healy.*)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 7, to leave out sub-section (2)."—(*Mr. Middlemore.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. BIRRELL said that although the Amendment of the hon. Member for North Birmingham had been moved in a spirit of fairness, it was really inconsistent with the observations which had already been made by hon. Gentlemen opposite, who recognised that it was impossible to carry out the proposals made under the Act of 1902 if there was not a latitude allowed in regard to these trusts, so far as they related to the use which the local education authority might make of the schoolhouse and premises for the purpose of carrying on a public elementary school. If they could not vary these trusts there would be an end of all dealing with trust property for public purposes. The whole history of this country was full of instances in which for the public good Parliament had allowed an interference with trusts affecting particular pieces of property. If they were now to be told that they could not acquire for the purposes of public elementary education any building which had a trust deed attached to it there would be no course open to them but to disregard those buildings and leave the local authority free to build new schools, leaving those trust schools out in the cold altogether. That was not the proposal of the Government. Their proposal was that where an agreement could be come to, the persons should strike a bargain of their own, and he did not see any compulsion in that. He sympathised with hon. Members who felt so keenly on this point, but it was now too late in the day for anyone who supported the Bill of 1902 or the Charitable Trusts Act to say that these trusts should not be varied. One hon. Member had assured the Committee that this interference with trusts would interfere in the future with benefactors, and that pious founders would not leave any of their property to trusts. He was afraid that personally he should never be a pious founder, but he could conceive nothing more likely to promote benefactions than the conviction that hundreds of years after the would-be benefactor was dead the public would by law utilise to the utmost the intention he had in his mind. He believed that if these pious founders could ever revisit the country the persons they would admire most would be the Charity Commissioners, because they would see the schools they had founded, instead of being kept going with only two or three boys, revived in consequence of these very breaches of trust and devoted to the main purposes which the pious founders had in view. He knew nothing more likely to encourage public benefactions than the fact that there was power from time to time to see to it that the trusts were not used as an instrument in opposition to the public good, but to divert them into channels of public usefulness. His belief was that the Amendment of the hon. Member for North Birmingham was entirely hostile to the general purposes of the Bill and would render this or any other measure dealing with private trusts altogether impossible. Therefore the Government could only offer a determined opposition to the Amendment.

*Mr. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor) said the speech of the Minister for Education was entirely alien to anything he had heard before on this subject, and he could not understand his view. He said it would not damp the ardour of pious founders and benefactors, but he differed from the right hon. Gentleman on that point. Probably in many cases the opinions of pious founders as to what was for the public good might differ very much from the opinion of the right hon. Gentleman. The President of the Board of Education had just put before the Committee a very dangerous doctrine. He happened to be the happy possessor of a book written by the right hon. Gentleman upon the liabilities of trusts and trustees in which it was laid down that the duty of a trustee was to adhere to the terms of his trust in all things great and small, important and seemingly unimportant—

> "This was his very plainest duty; no trustee would ever deny it, or pretend to be ignorant of it, yet it was his hardest, unless from the very beginning he made up his mind to it, and then it was as easy as eating bread and butter. *Non possumus* (continued the right hon. Gentleman) was the one and only answer for badgered trustees. They should never argue or reply to arguments, but barricade themselves behind their will or their deed, and whilst profoundly regretting their inability to oblige, refuse to budge a foot."

This was on pages 22 and 23.

MR. BIRRELL said they were not now dealing with the obligations of trustees, because every trustee left to himself must carry out his trust. They were now considering a great measure of public interest.

*MR. EVELYN CECIL said there had never before been such a wide departure in so-called deference to the public good. He could not himself see any very great difference between a private trustee and one who was a trustee for the nation.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) said that during the whole of the discussion upon the Act of 1902 he did not venture to say a word concerning education. He ventured this afternoon to address himself to this particular question of trusts because he did not think it was too late for him to enter his protest against what he believed to be an injustice on the part of the Government in dealing with trusts. The Minister for Education had said that the action of this or any Government which dealt with the alteration of trusts was to prevent abuses, to destroy what might be called the injury of obsoleteness which crept into trusts, and to keep down all that repressed what was for the public good. There was a time when a great many hon. Members opposite did not take the view that trusts were, as they had done their best to represent, oppressive to the public good. The whole body of opinion in this country forty years ago was that these religious and educational trusts were of immense benefit to the community at large. He quoted an extract from a Minute of the Committee of the Council on Education o 1844, which stated that the trust deeds of voluntary schools would form a permanent record of the views and intentions of the founders of the schools. The Minute further stated that in the opinion of the Committee no plan of education ought to be encouraged in which intellectual instruction was not subordinated to religious instruction. At that time this country was practically dependent upon the Church of England for the education of its children. The example set by the Church of England in the formation of the National Society was followed by the British and Foreign Society, by the Roman Catholics, and by Nonconformists of every kind. The Church of England gave their support generally and specifically to every effort which was made then to build up the religious foundations which existed to-day. He did not think the Minister for Education had put quite fairly before the Committee and the country the position of the teaching in the voluntary schools as they existed in this country. Were the Government justified in dealing so rigorously with trust deeds at the present time? Hon. Members on the Opposition side of the House believed that the treatment was too rigorous. They believed that the Government had taken from the voluntary schools that which was of most good in them, namely, religious instruction, the one thing for which those schools were valued. It was proposed to take away the full teaching which was provided under the old system and to give instead teaching on two days of the week. The instruction issued to the inspectors in former days was that they were to have regard less to the intellectual development of the children than to the foundation of character formed upon religious teching. The inspectors were told that no intellectual development was sound which had not its origin in moral and religious teaching through doctrinal methods. The people of this country had gone a long way since then, but he was not at all certain that they were on the right way. He did not think that those who represented nonconformity at present were really doing justice to themselves and their own history. There was not a single member of the community who had not benefited directly from the teaching given in the voluntary schools. In the forties and fifties, when there was no other system of schools, the burden of educating the poor devolved upon the Church of England. The Government then not only encouraged but pressed benevolent people to give land and to give of their riches in order to give to the poor of the country the education which they had not previously. He urged that the trusts should have greater consideration at the hands of the Government. Nonconformity and the Liberal Party were not at present really representing the feelings of the classes from which they had drawn their political force and power. The clauses in the Bill were repressive; they did not give freedom; they did not represent the views of the vast body of the people of the country. The Minister for Education had been more moved by political opportunism than by what he himself honestly believed was for the best good of the country. If the right hon. Gentleman were only to embody in the Bill the statements he had made on public platforms they would have less quarrel with him. The right hon. Gentleman knew that he was not carrying out the policy which he and his leader and the Liberal Party presented to the country at the general election. He hit harder than probably he meant, and by the clause which practically defeated the intention of the founders of the trusts, he was retarding the development of the education of the country. They had come to the day of misappropriations, and these, although called by another name by the Minister for Education, would return upon the Party which they represented and would do it an injury which they did not desire; because he believed they really wished to do their best for the good of the children of the country. What he and those associated with him desired was that a spirit of benevolence and charity in regard to education should be kept alive; that the soul and the mind of the children should be cultivated, and that no education other than that was worthy of the name. They believed that the inculcation of morality was good, but that the upbringing of the children in religion was better. They believed that the same tests in regard to the religious development of the child should be applied as to its intellectual development. It was in that regard that he hoped the intentions of the pious founders of trusts for the spiritual welfare of the children of England would be maintained intact.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir W. ROBSON, South Shields) said that the speeches in support of this Amendment displayed a singular and unfortunate misconception of the nature of trusts. They had been spoken of as if they were self-supporting trusts and as if the Government were interfering with the will of some pious founder who had set apart a sufficient fund for a charitable purpose. There could be no greater misapprehension. The trusts they were dealing with were not self-supporting. They were trusts which came as petitioners to the national exchequer for money. Most of them were built upon the legislative understanding that 50 per cent. of the expenses should be contributed by the denomination, and that it should receive a grant of 50 per cent. from the State. The denominations found themselves unequal to that financial burden, and their friends strove by legislative action to lessen that burden. He did not complain of that, but it was idle for voluntary schools to put themselves into the position of private trusts and to say the State had no right to dictate or suggest terms on which it should give its money. On the one hand, the denominations were appealing to the State for financial aid and on the other hand the State was saying in this Bill on what terms it would give that aid. No parallel could be drawn between that case and the case of private trusts. The denominations complained of the intolerable strain upon them, and that being their position how preposterous it was for them to assail the Government with terms of abuse because in the strict fulfilment of their duty as public trustees they suggested that there were terms which ought to be imposed in common fairness to the community which had to pay.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he objected to the language that had been used in respect to trustees and the sanctity of trusts. The President of the Board of Education had adduced the argument that because the Charity Commissioners had altered the disposition of certain trusts to the advantage of education, the benefactors who had created those trusts would have been heartily grateful to the Legislature for empowering them to do so. But it should be remembered that in those cases the educational circumstances of the past were adapted to the needs of the present with as little change as possible and the rule of *çi-près* was observed. The right hon. Gentleman had also quoted the action of the late Government in the Bill of 1902 and had stated that his right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition had invaded trusts and that, therefore, he was not in a position to criticise any one else who invaded trusts in any other direction. But what did the late Government do? In the first place they altered the schemes of management under the trust deed so as to conform to the provision of the Act; but the whole scheme of management was most carefully worked out to secure that the original intentions of the truster were carried on. He admitted that there was an invasion of the trusts under what was known as the Kenyon-Slaney clause of the Act of 1902. He quite agreed that when the late Government took the control of the religious instruction from the rector or vicar and deposited it in the hands of the managers that was a departure from the terms of the trust. But it was never contemplated to alter the character of the religious instruction given in the schools. Lastly, in regard to the teachers, it was a departure from the terms of the trust which enabled managers to appoint all the teachers, except the headmaster, from any religious denomination whatever. That was the whole case in regard to trusts as against the late Government. But what did the present Bill do? It altered the whole purpose for which the voluntary schools had been built. The Solicitor-General had said that these schools demanded payment from the State. But what were the circumstances of the case? Had not the State been content to use the buildings of the schools? Had not Parliament encouraged the denominations to build these schools, because Parliament did not want to put the expense either on the Exchequer or on the local rates? They were not mendicants for public money. They were the inheritors of buildings for purposes which could not be carried out under this Bill. But as the Bill now stood schools might be rejected and put aside and not allowed to be used as public elementary schools unless they submitted to the requirements of the Bill in regard to the trusts. It was not fair to put the case in the way in which the Solicitor-General had done and say that they had clamoured to have their schools confiscated. The purport of the Amendment was that the schools whose managers desired they should remain as public elementary schools should be acquired as such with the least possible departure from their trust deeds. What he meant was that they should if they chose continue their useful mission and should not be thrown aside through the whim of the local authority. He quite admitted that the Amendment was one which the Government could not consistently admit, having regard to the scheme of Clause 2, but for himself, he was, he thought justified in protesting against the treatment to which trusts were subjected throughout the Bill. The language of the Bill indicated that the Government were only too ready to secure, as public property, schools which had been provided for the purposes of the State in order to secure religious education in conjunction with elementary education. Whatever happened under the clause, however, a breach of trust would have to be committed, and against that he entered his hearty protest.

Mr. DILLON said the course of the discussion appeared to him to be positively melancholy. They were discussing a provision which was entirely in the interest of the voluntary schools but which it was now proposed to omit. If the Government had proposed the Amendment the hon. Gentlemen who were now supporting it would not have dared to have voted for anything of the kind. The speeches of hon. Members against breaches of trust would come in very well upon Clause 8 and other clauses, but to discuss the question upon this clause was most lamentable, as all that the clause proposed was to put trustees in a position in which they could hand over their schools. The only effect of the Amendment, if adopted, would be to play directly into the hands of the hon. Members who were the extreme opponents of Clauses 3 and 4, as it would give the local authorities a thoroughly valid excuse for refusing to take over voluntary schools. Such a proposal was not in his view reasonable.

MR. RAWLINSON said he was not upon this Amendment going to make an appeal to the Government, as he knew that any such appeal in regard to it would be unfair, because he recognised that this clause was an essential part of the scheme of the Bill. He was prepared, however, to vote in favour of the Amendment, not in the hope that the Government would accept it, but because he recognised that it was against the basis of the measure. He believed that that basis was confiscation of trust property, and the object of the Amendment was to protest against that. The Bill was talked about as if it referred only to trusts created hundreds of years ago, but, as a matter of fact, it referred to trusts ten, fifteen, and twenty years old. The trustees under it were invited to disregard equally the wishes of new and of old benefactors. It was quite a mistake to represent trustees coming as mendicants and suppliants. Under Part II. of the Bill the plunder could not be justified by the plea that the man gave his money merely for educational purposes. There had always been enough money from these educational endowments to pay for the denominational instruction in the schools so endowed. The Minister for Education had scoffed at the idea that the policy of the Government would stop benefactions which would go towards the creation of trust funds in future, but in his experience it had had that effect.

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University) wished to know whether it was proposed to put in the sub-section provisions imposing an obligation on the trustees to carry out the trust. It must be considerd that a trustee was bound to get the best possible terms. If when this Bill had passed the trustee of a voluntary school failed to secure such facilities as it was possible to secure would that trustee be guilty of a breach of trust? As he read the Bill, he did not think he would, but he thought he ought to be. Therefore he asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he would accept an Amendment limiting the breaking of the trust.

MR. BIRRELL said they had assumed that the trustees and owners of voluntary schools would always make it a condition that they should have the most extended facilities that the law under Clause 3 would permit. He could not suppose that they would do otherwise. However that might be, he would when they came to that part of the Bill, endeavour to put that question right. He only rose for the purpose of making an appeal to the Committee. Everybody had admitted that he could not possibly accept the Amendment now before the Committee; that to do so would be an act of cruelty to those trustees who wished to continue their schools and who wished to have the Prayer Book in the schools twice a week, and a good system of religious education on the other days. This clause was in their favour. However, he did not rise to argue the matter but to ask the Committee, as he could not accept the Amendment, to come to a decision upon it.

*MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing) said that they on the Opposition side of the House were being constantly told that the sanctity of trusts had been broken in upon and practically destroyed by the late Government by their Education Act of 1902 and by the Charitable Trusts Act, but that was not an accurate statement. The Act of 1902 had preserved the object which the founder had in view but had altered the number of trustees and given popular representation, while the Charitable Trusts Act had provided means for modernising trusts while keeping as far as possible to the object and scheme of the founder's bounty. The Minister for Education had also referred to the number of schools which had been surrendered or transferred under this Act of 1870. This was a subject upon which he himself had put a specific Question to the right hon. Gentleman. He asked him specifically to state the number of schools taken over since 1870; to give the number of school places affected, and to state how many of the schools taken over were Roman Catholic, how many were Church of England, and how many belonged to the various Nonconformist bodies. But in the Answer he received, with all the knowledge which he had of the English language, he utterly failed to find any information at all. Throughout the debates upon the Act of 1870 the position of these voluntary schools was clearly defined and not only was their existence recognised but their great work acknowledged. Board schools were to supplement but not supplant them, and upon the faith of this statutory recognition further schools were put up beside them. The hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University made it abundantly clear that even so far as building grants were given they were given for secular education, and the conditions of those grants had been fulfilled. True, they had to come for larger grants from the Exchequer year by year, and for very good reason, since they were subjected to unfair competition. During the whole of the time that elementary education had been given under the school board system, oppressive and ever increasing rates were levied upon the people for the purpose of providing and equipping in the most complete manner, irrespective of cost, these public elementary and higher grade schools. How could they suppose that voluntary schools could exist side by side with those schools which had the illimitable purse of the ratepayers at their back? It was because of that that the voluntary schools of outlying and rural districts came to the House from time to time to ask for further assistance. It was not only unjust and unfair but departing from the common principles of honesty to say that these great denominations had not a substantial interest in the schools they had built and equipped at such great pecuniary sacrifice, merely because they had received these grants from the Imperial Exchequer, grants given for purposes and under conditions which had been amply, nay generously, fulfilled. If hon. Gentlemen opposite said they had a mandate to deal with any part of the public educational system, it was confined to two points, viz., increasing the number of managers for voluntary schools appointed by the local authority, and the appointment of the head teachers. He denied that they had a mandate to alter trust deeds and put an end to the wishes of the pious founders of the last sixty years, the *raison d'être* for which was the establishment and maintenance of the religious education to be given in the schools, of the character approved by and in accordance with the teaching of the Church of England. The Committee in this matter were taking a step which they would soon regret because it would open the door to interference with trust deeds of all kind.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he agreed with the right hon. Gentleman opposite; therefore he would suggest that the Committee should bring this discussion to an end, and that they should divide not on this Amendment but rather on the second Amendment, upon which there were some important Questions to ask.

MR. MIDDLEMORE said before he withdrew his Amendment he would like to reply to the remark of the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education that the pious founders would clap their hands and rejoice at the destruction of these trust deeds. What mysterious power had whispered in the ear of the right hon. Gentleman that he had been enabled to become the Parliamentary representative of the unseen and unknown? All he could say was that the trust deeds were just as much alive now as they were in the time of the pious founders, and he ventured to say that if the pious founders were still alive they would hold the same views as they held when they entered into these trust deeds. He begged leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

LORD BALCARRES said he desired to move the Amendment standing in the name of his hon. friend the Member for the Oxford University—

"To insert in line 10, after the word 'section,' the words 'as far as possible in accordance with the terms of the trust."

His hon. friend had put those words on the Paper in order to invite the President of the Board of Education to say whether he could see his way to accept the Amendment not from the point of view of limiting the discretion of the local authority or the constituted rights and duties of trustees, but merely to insert in the clause something in the nature of a safeguard.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 10, after the word 'section,' to insert the words 'as far as possible in accordance with the terms of the trust.'"—(*Lord Balcarres.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. BIRRELL said, after all, under this clause the owners were the people who had to carry out the arrangements, and they would make their proposals as far as possible consistent with their trust. But he did not like to accept any words which might prevent the local authority from obtaining control of the schools during the time for which they required them.

SIR E. CARSON said the matter was of considerable importance, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see his way to agree to the Amendment. The object was to prevent negligent trustees or people upon whom pressure might be put from abrogating more than was necessary their functions as trustees of denominational schools. Surely it was only fair that a trustee should be guilty of a breach of trust if he neglected to carry out all the arrangements allowed under the Bill for the purpose of securing special facilities for religious teaching. What was the use of saying that a trustee was to be absolved from a breach of trust if he got rid of a trust altogether? In the vast majority of cases there was no doubt the owner and trustee would make the best bargain they could with the local authority. But the trust might pass into the hands of persons who were absolutely careless in these matters, and care ought to be taken that they were not allowed in such cases to sacrifice what the right hon. Gentleman had given them in the Bill. They should be bound to exercise the ordinary prudence and duties of trustees.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) asked the right hon. Gentleman to give further consideration to this matter. No harm could result from the Amendment, and it would provide that the trusts should be varied as little as was consistent with the arrangements in carrying out the other parts of the clause. It was impossible in any way to limit the full effect of the control given by the previous subsection.

MR. BIRRELL said the owners must know their own duties, and they knew perfectly well the limited purpose for which they were allowed to put their trust on one side. The Amendment would throw doubt upon their action in every possible way. He thought they must leave it to the trustees and the other persons who represented them to look after the matter as far as possible.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he was sorry the right hon. Gentleman had taken the line he had. The words proposed to be inserted in the clause had no other object than to make it quite clear that no unnecessary sacrifice should be made by the trustees. The right hon. Gentleman had not suggested a single inconvenience that would result. He had only suggested some minute difficulty which might arise, but he had not given even an imaginary case. He believed these words would be a valuable guide to the trustees and would help them in any legitimate discussion with the local authority. He did not want to hamper the local authority, and indeed they could not hamper it as the responsible authority in matters of education. If these words were not inserted it would seem to many trustees, as indeed it would seem to many in the Committee, that the Government desired to sweep away the trusts and to treat them as a matter of no moment, and being content that the local authorities should get all that they wanted for their part of the business and leaving the interest of the trust on one side.

LORD R. CECIL very much hoped the Government would reconsider their decision. The Minister for Education seemed to regard it merely as a matter for the owners. He did not think it was. He thought it was mainly a matter for those who benefited under the trust, and he could see a very substantial reason why some such words as these should be inserted. The clause said that the owners should have power to carry out any arrangements under this section. It might well be that two different arrangements might be possible under this section, both for the purpose of carrying on the public elementary school, but one might be more and the other less in accordance with the trust, and it seemed to him clearly desirable that in that case the one more in accordance with the trust should be selected by the trustee. But unless some such words as those of the Amendment were inserted the trustees would have absolute liberty to make the arrangement which was less in accordance with the trust. That was a very serious matter, and he could not help thinking that the Minister for Education had not really considered that aspect of the case. Even if the actual words of the Amendment were not those which the Government could accept he hoped they would insert some words which would make it clear that where it was possible to make an alternative arrangement the trustees should make that arrangement which was the more in accordance with the trust.

SIR W. ROBSON said it would be somewhat dangerous to introduce limitations of the power of the trustees to make such arrangements as they thought right with the local authorities. There was no reason to doubt that the trustees would consider themselves in a special sense the guardians of religious education wherever they could fulfil the object of their trusts, but if they were to introduce words of this kind it would certainly cast doubt on the power of trustees to make any arrangements. The words which it was proposed to introduce would leave every trustee and every local education authority in doubt as to the validity of the arrangement at which they had arrived, and that was a matter the Government desired to avoid.

*MR. CLAVELL SALTER (Hants, Basingstoke) confessed he had some difficulty in understanding the reluctance shown by the Government to accept this Amendment in substance. The clause they were dealing with was one which proposed to give to trustees a licence to break a trust. He imagined all Members of the Committee would agree that that was a thing which, i it were done at all, ought to be done with the greatest care and circumspection. He should think the right hon. Gentleman would agree that the only ground on which it could be suggested that it might be right to entitle trustees to break trusts was that of public interest, and did it not follow that licence to break trusts ought to be restricted so far as the public interest allowed? Was this restriction in any way in derogation of the supposed public interest on which the Government relied? Under the clause as it stood it would be competent for the trustees of a voluntary school to make an agreement which would completely destroy the hitherto existing religious character of the school. It might be that they were in a position, if they bargained with the local authority, to obtain certain terms. Under the clause as it stood they would be under no obligation to attempt to obtain the best terms available, and it would be open to the trustees, even though they could obtain facilities by bargaining, to make an agreement which would involve no facilities at all. But under the clause as proposed to be amended it would not be competent for the trustees of the school to make an agreement without stipulating for religious facilities, assuming such facilities could be obtained. He hoped the Minister for Education would consider whether, possibly by some alteration of the words, he could limit the licence here given to break trusts, so far as might be compatible with the public interest.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) considered the proposal of his hon. friend a valuable one. He thought the trustees and owners were entitled to some instruction and guidance in the matter. There was no doubt that the tendency of these clauses was very unfavourable as they now stood to the maintenance of trusts, and if the Bill passed in its present form it would appear as if the intention of Parliament was to break up trusts. Some Amendment of the kind indicated would do something to remove that defect.

Mr. HORRIDGE (Manchester, E.) said it was exceedingly desirable in this matter that the hands of the local authority and of the trustees should be free. Speaking as a lawyer on this occasion it seemed to him if they put in the words of the Amendment they would at once raise the question whether or not the trustees had gone one iota beyond what was necessary for the purposes of the trust. The Amendment would involve the trustees in all sorts of law suits, and in many cases they might even have the authorities themselves brought in. It seemed to him that the people to be trusted were those who had to make the bargain, and the Committee ought not to limit their actions in any way, or to raise any suspicion. He hoped the Minister for Education would not accept any words of this character, because he believed they would create difficulties and be harmful while serving no useful purpose.

Sir E. CARSON said the hon. and learned Gentleman had stated that unless these words were inserted there might be the suggestion of a breach of trust if certain matters were not carried out, but that was impossible for the reason that the words were "as far as possible in accordance with the terms of the trust." If the local authority said "we will never give you so and so," and the trustee had to accept it, he had done his duty because he had acted as far as possible in accordance with the trust. What they contended was that under the Bill at present the trustee was absolutely absolved from doing anything to carry out his trust, and they wished to have it clear that it was his duty to carry out his trust as far as possible. Why should it not be put in the Bill? In every case he ought to obtain terms for religious liberty under the Bill, and if he tried to do that he was absolved from any idea of any breach of trust whatsoever, because it was covered by the words "as far as possible." This was the most reasonable Amendment that could possibly be suggested, and he could not conceive why any Government should wish to interfere with solemn and great trusts more than was absolutely necessary in the public interest.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 103; Noes, 414. (Division List No. 136.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A J. (City Lond)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, Sir W. Evans-(T'r Ham.
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Hervey F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn Col. W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants. Fareham
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S
Lyttleton, Rt Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Middlemore John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
O'Neill, Hn. Robert Torrens
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)

Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C.E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C.E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C.B. Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Salter and Mr. Nield.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somers't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (Dev'np't
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets S. Geo
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire)
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm J. (S. Pancras, W
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, CH. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H. (S. Pancras, N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.)
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M. (Aberdeen, W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Som'rs't, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde. Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)

Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza-
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Donc'str.)
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'th'mpt'n
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradford
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester
Scott, A. H. (Ashtonunder Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, Jn. Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whiteley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carm'rth'n
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.

Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J.T. (H'dd'rs'f
Young, Samuel

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Lord R. CECIL moved the omission of the portion of Sub-section 2 which provided that the owners of a schoolhouse of any existing voluntary school which was subject to charitable trusts should, when the local education authority had not the use of the schoolhouse, have power to use it for any purpose they thought fit, subject to any statutory provisions under which the use of the schoolhouse or any room therein might be required for public purposes. The words appeared to him to be indefensible. The purpose of the sub-section was to enable the local education authority to come to terms, in spite of the trust, for the use of the schoolhouse for the purpose of public elementary education, and if the trustees were to have the power which the clause proposed to confer on them, the trusts must to a certain extent be interfered with. The Government had spoken as if this were a matter of affecting principally the trustees, but that was not so. He took very little interest in the trustees, except in so far as they performed the duties of their trusts. From a Return which had been issued showing the trusts affecting schools in Kent it appeared that under the trusts the schoolhouses could be put to a variety of uses of a parochial character, and, generally speaking, for the good and the convenience of the districts in which they existed. These trusts ought to be carefully preserved, and the only purpose of the words which he proposed should be struck out would be to give the trustees liberty to disregard the trusts. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, lines 10 to 15, to leave out the words, 'and in the time during which the local education authority have not the use of the schoolhouse under any such arrangement, to use the schoolhouses for any purposes they think fit, subject nevertheless to any statutory provisions under which the use of the schoolhouse or any room therein may be required for public purposes.' "—(*Lord R. Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. BIRRELL admitted that the words were unnecessarily wide. They were inserted in good nature, because the Education Office often received requests from trustees to be allowed to use the schoolrooms for social and public purposes, and the Board thought that the clause afforded a good opportunity for giving a general permission to trustees to use the schools for purposes other than educational. He should be sorry to see the words omitted altogether, but he agreed that they were extraneous to the purpose of the Bill. He did not wish in any way to insist on the words "for any purposes they think fit," and he was prepared to modify them. If hon. Gentlemen opposite thought that the whole of the words should go, he could not insist on them, because they were in no way necessary for his purpose.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON said he fully understood and appreciated the motive of the right hon. Gentleman in putting in the words. He suggested that in modifying the clause the right hon. Gentleman might insert words authorising the trustees to use the schoolhouses for purposes not inconsistent with the purposes of the trusts.

Mr. BIRRELL said there was a difficulty about the use of the words "not inconsistent with." In certain cases it might be argued that the purposes for which trustees desired to use schoolhouses were inconsistent with the purposes of the trusts.

Lord R. CECIL said he should prefer the omission of the words. It would not be too much trouble for trustees, desiring to go beyond the trust in the use of the premises, to apply for permission to the Education Office, who could decide each case according to its merits. Though he desired to meet the right hon. Gentleman, he should prefer the words to come out altogether.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) said he wished to ask whether in the event of the words coming out, it would be possible to limit the use of the schools for public purposes.

Mr. ROGERS (Wiltshire, Devizes) said he wanted to ask what would be done with the money which would be paid for the use of these buildings. He himself had had very frequently to pay his guinea for the use of a school in order to hold a meeting with his constituents; and he understood that these guineas were used for the up-keep of the building. But that would not be necessary now, and the revenue from such sources should be treated as part of the education fund.

MR. BIRRELL said that all monies which owners or trustees of schools took as fees for the use of their premises were trust monies; they were bound to be devoted to the purposes of the trust, and the trustees must account for them. The money might be applicable to the maintenance of the furniture of the schools, but the owners or trustees could not apply it for political purposes or put it into their own pockets. He thought it was desirable to have some form of words of a wide character, such as "for any purposes they may think fit," so that the local authorities or the trustees might, without coming to the Board of Education, use the money derived from the letting of the schools for social purposes. He undertook to introduce at a later stage words which, while getting rid of too wide powers, would safeguard some of the objects which had been referred to.

LORD R. CECIL said that after the explanation of the right hon. Gentleman he would ask leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY said he wished to move the omission of sub-section (3) of Clause 2 in order to ascertain from the Government what their intentions were as to the three different categories of voluntary schools mentioned in the Bill.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 16, to leave out Sub-section (3)."—(*Mr. Laurence Hardy.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

MR. LOUGH said that this sub-section was absolutely essential in order to make the clause in harmony with Clause 1; and he hoped the hon. Gentleman would not persist in moving his Amendment.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY said that what he wished to ascertain was why this special provision was put in instead of being covered by a general definition clause.

MR. LOUGH said that that would be dealt with under Clause 4.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY said he would not press his Amendment.

Leave to withdraw Amendment refused.

MR. BIRRELL said that the hon. Member's suggestion was that the object to be obtained by this sub-section would be better obtained by a general interpretation clause; but the draftsmen thought otherwise, and they had made it plain in the substance and body of the Bill.

MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) thought that this was a question of special importance.

SIR E. CARSON inquired where the power to enter into the arrangements referred to was given.

MR. BIRRELL said he had put down, in response to a point raised by the hon. Member for Oxford University, an Amendment which read, "Nothing in this section shall prevent the granting or requiring of facilities for special religious instruction in accordance with this Act, or prevent a local education authority, as a condition of an arrangement made under this section with respect to the use of the schoolhouse of an existing voluntary school, from giving an undertaking to give religious instruction which does not conflict with section fourteen of The Elementary Education Act, 1870, in the school." He thought that met the point.

SIR E. CARSON said that the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman seemed to him to be absolutely inconsistent with the previous part of the Bill.

SIR W. ROBSON argued that there was no inconsistency between the clauses.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY said he had asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN said he had put the question of the withdrawal and permission had been refused.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 364; Noes, 77. (Division List, No. 137.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork,N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A.Acland(Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Asquith,Rt.Hon.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury,E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey(Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott(Som's't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (D'v'np't
Benn, W. (T'w'r H'ml'ts,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.)
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L. (Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce,Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness B'ghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W.J.(S.Pancras, W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett,C.H(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randall
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David(MontgomeryCo.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson,W.H.(St.PancrasN
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Capt. A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,MajorE.Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G.(Leominster)
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (S.Pancras, E.
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy(Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hn. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)

Macdonald, J. M.(FalkirkB'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mansfield, H.Rendall(Lincoln)
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murray, James
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F.(Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nolan Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary,Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly,James (Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor

Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W.D.(Colchester)
Pearson,W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps,J.Wynford (Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards,Thomas (W.Monmth.
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt.Hn.E.(Dundee)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas.E.(Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton und.Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F.(Leitrim,S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.

Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen,E.)
Thomas, Sir A.(Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr)
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E.
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John(Stokeupon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, N.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, L. (Carmarthen)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson,Henry J.(York,W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson,J.W.(Worcestersh.,N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,RtHn. SirAlex.F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Brotherton, Edward Allen

Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt.Hn.Sir Edward H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.

Coates,E.Feetham(Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Lloyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Faber, George Denison (York)
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.

Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence(Kent, Ashford
Hervey, F.W.F. (Bury S.E'm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Liddell, Henry
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Neild, Herbert
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Percy, Earl
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Clement Hill and Mr. Fell.

LORD R. CECIL said the Amendment he desired to move was only to carry out what had already been done by the Government in another part of the Bill, in order to guard against the danger alluded to by the hon. Member who moved the last Amendment. He did not know whether the Government had any objection to this Amendment, which was only to make it quite plain that the local authority was not to get any interest in these schools other than for elementary education. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 17, after the word 'shall,' to insert the words 'in respect only of its conduct as a public elementary school by the local education authority, and to the extent only of such conduct.'"—(*Lord R. Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

*MR. BUTCHER (Cambridge University) said there was a section in the Act of 1870—Section 23—which corresponded with this Amendment—

"Every school so transferred shall, to such extent, and during such times as the school board have any control over the school, be deemed a school of the school board."

Some such words should be put in here, so that if this Bill was read in conjunction with the Act of 1870 it might not be thought that they had been left out for a particular purpose. He suggested that in order to remove any ambiguity these words should be inserted.

MR. BIRRELL agreed with the noble Lord that these words had already been accepted in other parts of the Bill, and he had no objection to them except they were tautological. He had been advised that there was no danger of in any way creating the impression that the schools were in any sense under the control of the local education authorities except f the purposes of elementary education, and that therefore the words were unnecessary. But he would look into the matter, and if he found his views were in accordance with those of the noble Lord he would insert words to make the matter clear.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. RAWLINSON thought there could be no objection to the Amendment standing in the name of his hon. friend the Member for Oxford University. If the words did no good, they could do no harm to the sub-section. They were to insure that a school should be deemed only during school hours to be a school of the local education authority. The Amendment was only for the purpose of clearing up any ambiguity there might be and it could do no possible harm. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 18, after the words 'deemed,' to insert the words 'during school hours.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR supported the Amendment. It was desirable that on the face of the clause the interest of the local authority should be restricted to the hours for which, for the purposes of elementary education, it had been given. The Government would agree that that was their policy. If that was so, let the policy be placed in the Bill in such a form that the most stupid or the most cantankerous trustee or manager would have the true verities of the case staring him in the face. It would make it clear to the casual and cursory reader, and from a lawyer's point of view it could do no harm. In these circumstances he urged the right hon. Gentleman not to be too hasty in rejecting the Amendment.

MR. BIRRELL said he was advised that they had already by the addition of the words "as a public elementary school" at the end of Sub-section 3, made the matter as plain as it could possibly be made. He could not accept the Amendment, but he would look into the matter again, as he had every desire to make every clause of the Bill as plain as possible, and see if he could so arrange words as to make the details and the verities of the Bill perfectly plain.

SIR E. CARSON said it was quite impossible to understand this kind of controversial objection. The right hon. Gentleman had not said one word as to what really was his objection to the Amendment. Did it not carry out the object of the Bill that the school should only be a provided school during school hours? If that was so, why should not these words be put in? The right hon. Gentleman said the words appeared in other parts of the Bill and that those argued together would give the same result, but there was not a word in the Amendment which would not be in accordance with his own Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said it was true that the right hon. Gentleman had accepted an Amendment that limited the use of a school by the local authority to the purposes of elementary education; but he still contended that the control by that body should be limited to the time necessary for carrying out its duties. The Amendment was that the actual duties were to be limited to the school hours. Therefore he thought that whatever ambiguity existed would, at all events, be removed by the acceptance of the Amendment.

LORD R. CECIL said he was afraid the Leader of the Opposition had put the question rather too favourably for the Government. The Amendment which had been moved by the hon. Member for Oxford University and accepted applied to paragraph (b). The operative part of the clause laid down what the general arrangement was to be, and provided for such use of the schoolhouse as was required for the purposes of carrying on a public elementary school. Nothing had been put into the clause to limit that phrase at all, and it might be extended a great deal beyond the use of the schools during school hours. It was a very wide provision, and it appeared to him that it contained nothing which definitely limited the local authority in the extent of the arrangement which they might come to. The matter was a little complicated in the drafting. Although the principle of the Amendment accepted earlier in the afternoon covered this Amendment, the actual enacting words did not do so, and if the Government thought the spirit of that Amendment was to be carried out some such words as those now proposed must be inserted.

MR. DILLON pointed out that the effect of this Amendment might be to prevent the local authority from making necessary alterations or whitewashing the premises or even cleaning them. Such work could not be done in schools hours. If "school" and not "schoolhouse" was meant then there was no necessity to put in the words as they would be inoperative. In his opinion the Amendment had no effect whatever in one sense, and in the other sense it might be held to be taking away what was given in the earlier sub-section.

MR. A. J BALFOUR said that such matters as those raised by the hon. Member for East Mayo would be settled by amicable arrangement. Did the hon. Gentleman desire that the local authority should have the right of entry at all hours? All local authorities and all trustees were not reasonable, and it was necessary that the operations to which the hon. Member had referred should be conducted with some limits. If friction arose it was manifest that these operations outside school hours must be conducted under some kind of regulations, and no regulations appeared to have been provided for. The Minister for Education agreed with the Amendment, but thought it was unnecessary, and for that reason he objected to putting it in the Bill. It was clear to him that there was a point of substance here. He wished to know the view of the Government with regard to reciprocal rights between the trustees and the local authorities.

*Sir FRANCIS POWELL said that allusion had been made to the clause dealing with this subject in the Act of 1870. As a member of the National Society he had had a great deal to do with partial transfers of schools where the education authority were in occupation during school hours and the owners during the rest of the time. His experience was that they had to exercise very great care in drafting those transfer deeds, and that great vigilance was necessary in watching their operation. He urged the Government to pay good heed to this matter and to see that these arrangements were so made as not to act prejudicially to the interests of trustees or owners.

Mr. BIRRELL said that, as the hon. Member for East Mayo had pointed out, it would be impossible to whitewash a school during the hours, say, of religious instruction, or to clean it while the children were undergoing tuition. It would, therefore, be obviously unfair to insert the words "during school hours." They could only lead to a deadlock. He adhered to what he had said, that if he could introduce words which would make the meaning perfectly plain he would do so on Report.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Would the right hon. Gentleman give us his view as to the mutual arrangement of hours?

Mr. BIRRELL said the right hon. Gentleman must understand that, as a matter of business, schools could not be cleaned or prepared for use while school work was going on. Therefore, an arrangement would have to be made under the agreement whereby the local authority would have access for such purposes. He could not imagine the right hon. Gentleman was serious in putting this as a matter of real difficulty.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON doubted whether the provision made in the clause clearly confined the use of the schoolhouse to school hours.

Mr. BIRRELL: We have no desire to obtain possession of these school premises otherwise than for the purpose of elementary schools at such times and seasons and those occasional additional periods as are absolutely necessary for us to carry on the work of education.

*Mr. BURDETT-COUTTS asked what authority there was for the explanation that the words "public elementary school" really did confine the use or control of the schoolhouse to the school hours. Where was that definition of "public elementary school" to be found? Was it in the Bill?

Mr. CHEETHAM (Stalybridge) said that in many districts these schoolhouses were the only buildings in which evening continuation classes which gave secondary education could be held, and therefore it was very important that they should be safeguarded under the Bill. He was apprehensive of the effect of the Ministerial statement on the evening continuation classes.

*Mr. LOUGH suggested that the Amendment might now be dropped and the pledge of the Minister in charge of the Bill accepted. The point put by the hon. Member for Westminster really arose upon the schedule to the Bill. The question dealt with by the hon. Member for Stalybridge could not be dealt with in this clause, and it was provided for in Part III of the Bill.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said the hon. Member for Stalybridge need be under no apprehension that anything in the Bill would take away the privileges given by the Act of 1902, as affecting continuation schools. The Minister for Education had not completely cleared up the more substantial point put to him, but he did not wish to press the matter further.

Question put, and negatived.

*Mr. LOUGH, for Mr. Birrell, moved the following new sub-section:—"(5) Nothing in this section shall prevent the granting or requiring of facilities for special religious instruction in accordance with this Act, or prevent a local education authority, as a condition of an arrangement made under this section with respect to the use of the schoolhouse of an existing voluntary school, from giving an undertaking to give religious instruction, which does not conflict with Section 14 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, in the school." The object of this sub-section was, he said, to fulfil the pledge given at an earlier stage to the hon. Member for the Abercromby Division of Liverpool, and the right hon. Member for Oxford University.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 23, at end, to add the words, '(5) Nothing in this section shall prevent the granting or requiring of facilities for special religious instruction in accordance with this Act, or prevent a local education authority, as a condition of an arrangement made under this section with respect to the use of the schoolhouse of an existing voluntary school, from giving an undertaking to give religious instruction which does not conflict with Section 14, of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, in the school.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed "That those words be there added."

Sir WILLIAM ANSON acknowledged that the new sub-section in substance carried out the intention of the Amendment which formerly stood in the name of his right hon. friend the Member for Dublin University; but in order to make it clearer, he moved to amend it so that it should refer not to "special religious instruction under this Act," but to "religious instruction under Sections 3 and 4 of this Act." He begged to move the omission of the word "special."

Amendment to the proposed Amendment proposed—

"In line 2, to leave out the word 'special.'" —(*Sir William Anson.*)

Question proposed "That the word 'special' stand part of the proposed Amendment."

Dr. MACNAMARA said this sub-section was a valuable concession and had been so received; but he pointed out that the word "special," which would be omitted by the Amendment, was the technical word which described the religious instruction for which facilities were given under Clauses 3 and 4; and that the numbering of the clauses might be altered hereafter and make the Amendment nonsense. It would be better to accept the concession in the words proposed. He thought the words were better as they stood, because Sections 3 and 4 might deal with something else entirely. He suggested to the hon. Member that the best thing he could do was to leave the words as they stood, and accept from the Government the valuable concession made in the words proposed.

Lord R. CECIL said he could not see why the words of the Amendment should be hostile to the intention of the clause. The objection of the hon. Member for North Camberwell was not serious, because the numbers of clauses might be corrected on report. The same class of argument might be used with much more effect against such an expression as "special" which was not yet defined. He had great doubt whether it was the proper word to use. He had felt all along that the expression "special religious instruction" was really one of a very unfortunate character, to say the least of it. Moreover it was not the language used in a later part of the Bill, and that, from the legal point of view, was a matter of some importance. The expression in a later part of the Bill was "religious instruction of a special character." "Special religious instruction" was a very vague phrase, and there was no definition of it in any part of the Bill. The words of the Amendment were very much superior to those proposed by the Government.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment to proposed Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

***Sir HENRY CRAIK** (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) said he would not have obtruded himself on the attention of the Committee had it not been for some remarks which were made by the Solicitor-General in his speech. The hon. and learned Gentleman had described the voluntary schools as being in the position of mendicants, losing any rights they might have had for respect for their trusts.

Was that the case with regard to these voluntary schools? At the behest of the State and in accordance with the requirements and conditions of former codes they had carried on the education of the country, and for many years religious education was an indispensable condition of receiving State grants. The Solicitor-General said they had not carried out their part of the stipulation. What was the stipulation which they had failed to carry out? There was, the Solicitor-General said, an understood condition that 50 per cent. of the expenses should be met from voluntary contributions. Did the hon. Member for North Camberwell assent to that description of the bargain between the voluntary schools and the State? The understanding which existed was not that 50 per cent. should be met by voluntary contributions, but that 50 per cent. should be met from "local sources," which included the fees paid by the parents and other sources of income. Of this portion of the local resources which was furnished by school fees, voluntary schools were deprived by the action of the State, while they were brought into competition with schools having far larger resources, and in many respects the standard of educational requirements was raised.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN called the hon. Gentleman to order as travelling beyond the Motion before the Committee.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK said he wished to follow the ruling of the Deputy-Chairman, and he would have made his remarks very much shorter but for the criticism of the Solicitor-General, who he thought was unfair in regard to voluntary schools. He felt bound to vindicate the rights of the voluntary schools, and to point out the heavy debt which the nation owed to the managers of these voluntary schools. It was incumbent on the State to deal with them and with their obligations under their trusts and to their consciences in a considerate, just, and generous manner. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education had told them that no one would be more pleased at the action of the Charity Commissioners than the pious donors of the past. But many of these pious donors still survived and continued to take an interest in the schools which they had founded; and he did not know that there was any change in their views. If pious founders felt that sincere gratitude for the complete alteration of their deeds which the right hon. Gentleman ascribed to them, nothing would have been easier than for them to make the terms of their wills so elastic as to permit of easy change. But they all knew that this was very rarely done. The right hon. the President of the Board of Education had made a distinction between public and private trust. It was quite true that such a distinction might be made, but was there not a public morality as well as a private morality in dealing with trusts? Was it likely to have a good impression on the nation if Parliament was found to be treating carelessly, lightly, and without due consideration, the wishes of the trustees? Under the compact entered into in 1870, new schools, even down to the most recent years, had been established. They were now going to sweep away those schools, and the trusts connected with them, and flaunt this before the nation as the idea which Parliament entertained of its moral obligation to those with whom it had entered into a solemn compact. It was because he believed that this clause embodied an unjust and unnecessary interference with existing rights, and with a system of education which was in accordance with the wishes of the parents, and also because the word and the honour of Parliament was pledged to the managers of those schools, and to those who had carried on at a great sacrifice the education of the children of the country, that he looked upon the provisions of this clause as pernicious to education and injurious to the rights both of private individuals, and of corporate communities.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester) said that they on his side of the House had been listening with a great deal of amazement to the extraordinary lugubrious statement of the hon. Gentlemen above the gangway. He was bound to say that he could follow neither their reasoning nor their morals. It was difficult to find in the clause any justification for their allegations of confiscation, robbery, and similar expressions. As a matter of fact, the clause was over-generous to the trustees of voluntary schools, because it provided that public money was to be spent for the improvement of private property. It was an undoubted fact that some of the voluntary schools were bad, some were indifferent, some were good, but some were altogether below the standard of educational efficiency, as had been pointed out in the report of the London County Council. What was going to happen now? The public were to put these schools into good order, and to take them over, and all that they got in return was the use of them during the hours required for elementary education. The point he wished to emphasise was that the Government had been over-generous in the bargain which they proposed to make in regard to the voluntary schools. He felt quite certain it would be a source of great gratification to educationists, both in the House and out of it, if the Government could give some assurance that on the report stage the clause would be supplemented by some sort of provision which would enable secondary education authorities to come compulsorily to an arrangement with the owners of these schools that had been kept in an efficient educational state at the public expense.

*MR. BUTCHER remarked that the local authority was left almost entire discretion on the great issues which came up under this Bill, and that it was given powers great almost beyond precedent and powers which were really also a menace to the religious liberty of large sections of the community. Clause 1 was mandatory, but Clause 2 laid down the principle of local option which was almost the basis of the remainder of the Bill. Yet the principle of compulsion was by no means absent from it. That principle was admitted in a very capricious and harsh way, and in a way which seriously imperilled the whole teaching of religion in the country. The compulsions and the options, the "mays" and the "musts" taken together in their relation one to another, and their various reappearances through the Bill, threw a strange light on the minds of the authors of the Bill. According to the Bill it was plain that, in their eyes, it was a matter of purely local concern whether any religious teaching, even undenominational teaching, should be given in any school. On the other hand, it was a matter of national concern and a thing to be laid down by Parliament that all religious teaching should be prohibited within school hours, and that denominational teaching should be given by others than the members of the school staff. The hon. Member was proceeding to discuss the optional and compulsory provisions of other clauses of the Bill and the peculiarity of the local option given, when,

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member must confine himself to the discussion of Clause 2 and not discuss other clauses of the Bill.

*MR. BUTCHER said that Clause 2 gave this keynote :—it made optional things which ought to be compulsory, and made compulsory things which ought to be optional. The Minister for Education had said he desired that there should be free bargaining, and no sort of compulsion on the owners of voluntary schools. But it was, surely, virtual compulsion of the cruellest kind under the guise of freedom to say, "Unless you accept these conditions you cease to exist; unless you accept conditions which you came into existence to avoid, you are extinguished as State schools." The right hon. Gentleman had said that what he meant was "business freedom." What they meant was religious freedom. It was there they misunderstood one another; they were talking about things which had no common term. They were not contending, mainly at least, for rent and cleaning, lighting and upkeep of fabrics. They were not so much concerned with the maintenance of the material structure. What they did want to maintain was the spiritual fabric, by which he meant the teaching given in the building, the teachers who gave it, the children who received it. In the last resort it was the welfare of the children for which they were driven to negotiate, and he protested against fighting this out over municipal elections. The bargain was not about coal and gas, but about the things by which men live—things which ought to be above all bargaining and bartering, those spiritual truths which it should be the right of parents to have transmitted to their children.

*LORD MORPETH (Birmingham, S.) said he had voted for the first clause of the Bill because he believed that so far as secular education was concerned it left the settlement of 1902 where it was. Under the settlement of 1902 there was complete control over provided schools. So far as the authority of the Council went with regard to secular education, staffing, building, attendance and teachers, the local authority had absolute control. They had absolute power over the managers, and the foundation managers existed simply and solely for the purpose of safeguarding the religious teaching in the school. Therefore he maintained that under the Bill, so far as secular education was concerned, the settlement of the Act of 1902 was left almost as it was. So far as the secular side of education was concerned it might be said that rather more generous terms had been given by the present Bill than by the Act of 1902. He was putting aside for the moment the consideration of religious education. What was the difference between the arrangements proposed by this Bill and the Bill of 1902? Under the Act of 1902 the local authority was able to call upon the voluntary owners to enlarge their schools, or to carry out necessary repairs, and to make such alterations as they, the local authority, desired. Moreover, they had the use of the school for all school purposes gratuitously; they were under no obligation to pay rent; they had the free and absolute use of the schools for all purposes of daily school teaching without payment of any rent or charge for upkeep or repairs, which was put upon the local managers. Under this Bill the local education authorities would have to pay rent for the schools, although it was true that more than the rent would be found, in all probability, by means of grants from the central government. In addition to that they would have to pay for such alterations as they demanded as being necessary and for the repairs. Therefore, looking at them from the financial point of view the terms offered by the right hon. Gentleman were not ungenerous, he might even say they were handsome. The local authority was in the future to pay rent for the school during the school hours, and the buildings for parochial and other purposes were to be in the hands of the trustees and managers. From the financial point of view the terms were perhaps too generous. They were so generous that he could not help thinking that the right hon. Gentleman hoped by this generosity in money to ease the difficulty and to conceal the injustice he was doing in other directions. The trustees, the men who built these schools, built them not in order to make rent; they were not companies. If they had been companies and this a winding up of the company it would be a satisfactory end for the shareholders. But the Party opposite knew very well that these men were not only unable to look at this question from that point of view, but that that, indeed, was the last consideration that affected their minds, and it was for that reason they opposed this clause. It was because when they came to Clauses 3 and 4 they found that the reasons for which these schools were built and maintained for more than a generation were violated, they were compelled to oppose this Bill, although they recognised that so far as the secular instruction was concerned, the conditions were generous. One consideration must not be lost sight of, and that was that these schools were built and maintained to safeguard religious education. It was often asserted not with justice or complete truth that these schools were built to keep out the school board rates. That might have been a contributory reason in some cases, but it did not cover the whole field. The men who parted with these schools might have parted with them not with a light heart, but with some satisfaction if they felt that by that sacrifice they could secure teaching in accordance with the desires of the founders, not only in these schools, but in every school in the country. The whole basis of the Bill for the granting of religious education only in the transferred schools was wholly illogical. Why should the parent who desired definite religious teaching for his child be debarred from that definite religious teaching because he lived in a parish where there was only a local education authority's school, while a parent who lived in the next parish where there was a transferred school could demand definite religious teaching. Many Members on the Opposition side of the House would have willingly acquiesced in the transfer of these schools, and would have even readily supported the Bill if in making that sacrifice and transferring those schools they could have obtained these rights for the parents not only in the voluntary school districts, but throughout the whole of the schools of the country. But that settlement had been denied them by the Government. For his own part, desiring as he did that there should be a settlement of this question, that some final solution of it should be arrived at, that the constant quarrelling, more bitter in this House than in the country, but which raged throughout the parishes of the country, which was used for political purposes, should cease and that the whole controversy should be put an end to, he ventured to say that the only way in which it could be ended was by so legislating that no injustice should remain on the shoulders of any religious body or on any Party. His great regret was that the authors of this Bill, which did in a way provide a natural solution, had not had the courage to go still further and produce a final settlement. He was sure that there were many who desired to see the cause of education advanced. Men working in the country on local Boards of Education would have been ready to support the right hon. Gentleman if he had elected to take that course. The right hon. Gentleman no doubt despised the support of any one outside his big battalions, but he was mistaken in so doing, because it was only by means of that kind, it was only by satisfying all religious bodies, by satisfying not only one Church, but all the Churches, that he could hope to carry a Bill which would result in a permanent settlement. It was because Clause 2 did not carry out a broad and permanent policy, as it might have done if the right hon. Gentleman had only faced this question with a little more courage, that he was compelled to vote against it although he voted for Clause 1.

MR. WYNDHAM (Dover) said every Member of the Committee would admit that the speech to which they had just listened was closely reasoned and able, but gave ground for the sad reflection that such a speech could be delivered and produce no effective result on those who sat opposite. The present misconception which underlay the debate was based on the fact that hon. Members opposite seemed to think that voluntary schools existed on air; that they could live without means, and that they were now paying for a special indulgence which this House ought not to recognise at all. Two remarkable speeches had been delivered this evening—that by the hon. Member for Leicester, and that by the hon. Member for the Cambridge University. The first speaker, whose sincerity was apparent, held that in this Bill the Government, in Clause 1, exhibited undue generosity to all the voluntary schools. The hon. Member for Leicester was followed by the hon. Member for the Cambridge University, who pleaded that money did not enter into his mind in his consideration of the question. The hon. Member struck a spiritual note which found an echo in many of the hearts of those who listened to him. Hon. Members who listened to those two speeches must have felt that a chasm divided them. They had to bridge that chasm. The hon. Member for Leicester had argued that the Government had been too generous, because public money was to be spent on the improvement of private property. That was what nine out of ten of those who opposed the Opposition in this matter believed. They had got it into their heads that the public was giving its money for the purpose of benefiting private property. He would crave the indulgence of the Committee whilst he looked a little more closely into that phrase "private property." In what sense were the voluntary schools private property? What emolument was drawn from them? That was very important. When it was said that they were spending money on private property the suggestion was certainly conveyed that private individuals were profiting at the expense of taxpayers. Then it did not mean private property in that sense. How could it? These denominational schools placed themselves under public control rent free. The Act of 1902 handed them over to the county or town councils free of rent; all that was reserved was the control of the religious education and the appointment of one teacher, subject to the veto on educational grounds of the local authority. Thus private property was acquired for a public purpose for nothing. He would not charge the hon. Member for North Camberwell and those who agreed with him with deliberately wishing that the children in denominational schools should have a worse education and less sanitary surroundings than the children in board schools. Would it be fair to charge them with wishing to squeeze out the denominational schools? They wanted to come to an understanding as to the point of view from which they should look at this matter. These schools were not private property in the sense that any individual derived profit from them, or in the sense that they did not subserve a public object. They subserved that object at a less cost than by any other means. Then it was said that public money was used for the improvement of these schools. Why were they improved? In order that the public object might be carried out at less cost than would otherwise be the case. If, as had been done in the first clause, they wiped these schools clean off, they were told it must not be called "confiscation." He would call it "commandeering." When they commandeered a man's horse for the public object of waging war they fed the horse, and when the war was over they gave the owner some small fee for its use; they did not contend that they had conferred an immense favour upon the owner by taking his horse to use it for a purpose which he never contemplated. That really again illustrated the impossibility of bridging the chasm between those who held the views so eloquently expressed by the hon. Member for Cambridge University and the hon. Member for Leicester, representing those who wished for religious instruction and those who desired merely secular. Clause 2 was to bridge the chasm dividing those who in their heart of hearts were in favour of secular education and those who in their hearts, souls, and consciences, believed that the children should have the kind of religious instruction which their parents desired, but a more futile bridge could not be designed for the purpose. The Government built their bridge by interfering with trusts and abolishing Church of England denominational teaching. Was the object adequate? He would look at the matter from the point of view of those who said that perhaps special arrangements ought to be made for the Roman Catholics, but that if the Church of England were not satisfied with Cowper-Temple instruction they ought to be. That was a view very widely held on the other side of the House. From that point of view was there any adequate reason for interfering in this drastic fashion with trusts? They would get rid of the catechism for one half-hour a week in Church of England schools. Was it really worth while undertaking this drastic and wholesale interference with trusts, and to spend £1,000,000, and perhaps £3,000,000 a year in order to put an affront upon the Church and the religious convictions of millions of people to get rid of this half-hour? They had tried to carry the clause first by concession. Well, the concessions in substance were always carried over to a future date, and he did not attach much importance to concessions until he had heard them read from the Table. But the concessions amounted to very little indeed. Let them take the concession made to-night. What was asked for was that schools which had been dedicated to religious purposes should be free to have religious instruction given on any day in the week. What they had got was the liberty to bargain between the two Parties. The hon. Member for Leicester had attacked not only their reasons but their morals. It might seem wrong that any Member of this House should speak when their proceedings must come to an end at half past ten o'clock; but they represented people in the country, and it was their duty to protest against that which they thought unjust and inexpedient, and would only lead to years of barren controversy. This clause was the proper occasion on which to protest against the whole framework and structure of the Bill. The Government seemed to regard denominational education as a foible to be at best tolerated, but to be made expensive—a thing which the rich man might pay for, but which was denied to the poor. Whatever might be the money balance shown in this or any other Bill, the parent who desired denominational instruction had as much right to have what he desired as had the parent who desired undenominational instruction. Their opponents ignored the essential fact that Roman Catholics, Anglicans, and Jews all paid rates and taxes towards the education of which they did not approve. Until it was allowed that these different classes ought to stand upon an equality and that they all paid alike, they would never agree.

DR. MACNAMARA said he had to offer a few words in reply to the challenge of the right hon. Gentleman who had just sat down. The right hon. Gentleman claimed that the Act of 1902 had handed over every denominational schools to full public control.

MR. WYNDHAM: Subject to the two reservations which I mentioned.

DR. MACNAMARA said the Act of 1902 undoubtedly put the denominational schools upon the rates and taxes. He made no complaint of that. But it violated the common agreement of 1870. Up to that time the denominational schools had been maintained by grants and voluntary contributions, and in that year it was laid down that by way of supplementing that system there should be a new class of school receiving rates and taxes. Everybody agreed. The late Mr. W. H. Smith was one of those who agreed that the moment they touched the public rates the school must be under full public control and if they gave any religious instruction at all it must not have any formulary distinctive of any particular religious denomination. That was why they were now bringing in a Bill to amend the Act of 1902. The right hon. Gentleman said the Act of 1902 put these schools under full public control free of rent. It gave six managers to each, the public having the appointment of two. Those managers appointed the teacher, and the authority that appointed the teacher controlled the school. Then the Act of 1902 gave the local authority the right to use the schools free of rental on five days a week and three nights a week, but the denominational managers had the right to use them two days and four nights a week for any purpose, and the public had to make good the wear and tear. This was full popular control and the free use of the schools! As for the sanctity of trust deeds, all the speeches on that subject were curiously belated. They ought to have been made four years ago. The model trust deed of the Church of England schools laid it down that the principal officiating minister of the parish for the time being should have the supervision of the religious and moral teaching, but the Leader of the Opposition gave this over to a Committee of six. Could there be a greater violation of the trust deeds? The model trust deed placed the appointment and the dismissal of teachers in the hands of a committee, including a minister and his licensed curate. The Act of 1902 took it out of their hands. The model trust deed said there might be associated with the management of the school other persons who must subscribe 20s. a year, and be communicants of the Church of England. He wondered how many of the present managers subscribed 20s. a year. He would be very much surprised if they could find one. If they did not subscribe 20s., at any rate they must be communicants of the Church of England; the whole thing was perfectly grotesque. It was too late in the day to talk about the sanctity of trust deeds. The present Leader of the Opposition abrogated the trust deeds entirely by the Kenyon-Slaney Clause, and he hoped they would hear no more in this discussion about the sanctity of trust deeds.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that the hon. Member's speech made him feel four years younger—a happy and unusual effect of oratory. He really imagined, as he listened to the impassioned eloquence of the hon. Gentleman, that the House was still in the middle of the long-drawn debates of 1902, when unfortunately the Government of the day were innocent of the developments to which the closure had since been carried. He asserted that under the Act of 1902 popular control was conceded, except in those particulars that were necessary to preserve the denominational religious character of schools established by voluntary action. It was true that the majority of the managers in the case of a voluntary school had to belong to the denomination of the school, but these managers had no control over the curriculum of the school, except with regard to religious education. Everything connected with secular education was handed over by the Act of 1902 to the local education authority. The only conceivable exception was that the initiative in the appointment of teachers lay in the managers. But the local authority had an absolute veto on any teacher who was not competent in their opinion to deal with secular education. How then could it be contended that popular control was not recognised by the Act of 1902? The Chancellor of the Exchequer in a speech at Northampton the other day had declared that the Act of 1902 destroyed popular control. That was a profound error. In every particular in which the Act of 1902 modified the Act of 1870 the modification was in the direction of popular control. [AN HON. MEMBER: What about the abolition of the school boards?] He had yet to learn that the handing over of education to the county councils in any sense militated against the true doctrine of popular control It was a gross mis-statement to assert that the Act of 1902 diminished popular control. It increased it enormously. What was the second point of the hon. Gentleman? It was that the Opposition were debarred from even mentioning the words trust deed, because the trust deeds were modified under the Act of 1902. Nobody denied it. But because of that were they not to be allowed to deal with the subject now? It was true that in view of the modified circumstances with which they had to deal trust deeds made in different circumstances had to be changed. Some of the supporters of the Government of that day viewed these provisions with regard to trust deeds with great distress and some dismay. He held now the view he then entertained that the best way in which to maintain the spirit of trust deeds was to adapt them to the changed circumstances of the time, with a view to the maintenance of the voluntary school. But there was a great difference between making modifications in order to carry out the original purposes of the trust compared with a change which was made in order to squeeze into the rigid formula of this Bill institutions which it was the main object of the Bill to destroy. They destroyed not only the external form of the trust, but its spirit as well. The Party to which he belonged had been charged all over the country with being too favourable to the voluntary schools. It was said also that they had done an injury to those who established the voluntary schools, because they modified the trust deeds so as to put them under the policy by which the voluntary schools were preserved. But anybody who could look behind the mere letter to the spirit would see that the manner in which the late Government dealt with trustees was profoundly different from that which had guided the policy of the present Government. So much for a subject which was in some respects belated. He certainly never contemplated when he came down to listen to this part of the debate that he should have to deal with these ancient controversies. Now he desired to say a few words by way of assisting rather than embarrassing the Government. There were two gaps in the Bill as compared with the plan announced by the Government. The first was that all the right hon. Gentleman's pledges to give facilities compulsorily must break down if the local authority was allowed to decide as to whether they should take over a school or not. The right hon. Gentleman admitted that gap, and he was going to try to remedy it. The second was that if they compelled a local authority to take over a school there was nothing in the Bill at present to compel it to take that school over on conditions that would ensure denominational facilities in the schools as promised. The right hon. Gentleman had promised an Amendment which would compel a local authority when it had taken over a school to give in that school, as promised, denominational facilities. Of course, he was not in a position to argue on an Amendment which was not before them, but he was bound to say something about the clause in which that Amendment was ultimately to appear. He thought it was due to the right hon. Gentleman to tell him quite fairly at this stage of the proceedings that in his judgment the right hon. Gentleman would be breaking a Parliamentary engagement if he brought forward the proposed Amendment to Clause 2 in the form he had adumbrated. Than the right hon. Gentleman there was not a more honourable Member in the House, but he had through inadvertence or forgetfulness allowed himself to slip into a Parliamentary position from which he would find it very difficult to extricate himself, his Government, or his Party with full credit if he intended to insist on bringing forward his Amendment to the clause named in the shape in which he had promised. In the speech of the right hon. Gentleman in introducing the Bill, as well as in those of other leading members of the Government, there would be found stated beyond possibility of doubt two propositions. The first was that facilities were to be compulsory; the second that there was to be no interference with private owners of voluntary schools. He wished to know how the Government could possibly now come down and make it a condition of granting the first of their promises that they should break the second. Yet the Minister for Education, with those pledges fresh in mind, had on more than one occasion argued that he was perfectly willing to carry out the first of these pledges provided gentlemen on the Opposition side would absolve him from carrying out the second. He thought it only fair, before the Amendment was placed on the Paper and before the Government were finally pledged to any course, to give them fair warning. He asserted that the announced policy of the Government was a clear breach of Parliamentary pledges—of the expectations held out by responsible Ministers. He begged the right hon. Gentleman to look back on his speeches and those of his colleagues, and see whether he had in any way perverted or exaggerated the statements that had been made. If the right hon. Gentleman found that he had not exaggerated those statements, he hoped that for the sake of his own credit and that of his Party he would not ask the House to accept from him the fulfilment of one thing he had promised at the price of something else which he had also promised. If he did not listen to these words of warning—he did not wish to use language too solemn for the occasion—if he refused to accept the suggestion he made in all sincerity, he would do himself the utmost injury. The right hon. Gentleman was a man in whom they were all disposed to place the utmost reliance, they knew how high was his sense of honour, how clear his head, how careful were his statements. If he deserved those eulogies, as he did, could he really come down to the House and throw over all that he and his colleagues had said and, presenting a pistol at the head of the Committee, demand their acceptance of an arrangement which was wholly inconsistent with everything that had been said before? He would not press the matter further now, but he rejoiced that the opportunities of the debate had enabled him seriously to call the attention of the right hon. Gentleman to a matter which deserved his most careful attention.

MR. BIRRELL said he did not rise to prolong the discussion which in some respects he regretted. Being himself not a closure man at all, he was very anxious that they should have full time for the consideration of the important clauses that lay immediately ahead of them; and he could not help thinking that if right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite had seen their way to finish this clause at nine o'clock, they might have spent two more hours on Clause 3, and thereby obviated some of the hardship of which the Opposition so loudly complained the other night; he did not know that they would have lost anything. [OPPOSITION cries of "Oh, oh."] He was sure the Leader of the Opposition was the last man to quarrel with the suggestion that even the time occupied by one of his speeches might not possibly have been better spent. He could assure the right hon. Gentleman that he was obliged to him for his solemn and reiterated warning, and he appreciated the spirit in which it was given. The right hon. Gentleman evidently thought that he had, perhaps inadvertently and from inexperience, placed himself in a somewhat awkward position, that his honour was somewhat involved, and that unless he walked very warily he should find himself in an awkward Parliamentary predicament. He could assure the right hon. Gentleman that he meant to be faithful to all his pledges and promises as they had been made, and that if he found himself in a position which prevented him from carrying them out he should immediately place himself in a position of perfect freedom and less responsibility. He thanked the right hon. Gentleman for his warning. He made no claim to much Parliamentary experience, he found himself in a position of great pressure and very considerable difficulty, and he was obliged to anybody who gave him assistance, and he was bound to say their name was legion. It was an honour which he welcomed to find the late Prime Minister amongst their number. He had already recognised that there was a gap in Clause 2. No Bill that a Government proposed or suggested ever took shape in which that gap did not exist. They proceeded on the assumption that the local authority should have control in this matter, that it should lie with them to broach the question as to what schools they should take over. They assumed, and he thought their clauses were so framed as to make that assumption natural, that in the great number of cases the owners and trustees of voluntary schools would make the arrangement contemplated under Clause 2. If they did, the Government said and meant that the facilities contemplated by Clause 3 should be compulsory. The second gap to which the right hon. Gentleman had alluded seemed to him to be a somewhat small one. No doubt the Government did assume that they could safely leave it to the owners and trustees of voluntary schools to secure that these facilities should be made part of every bargain that was entered into. When the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster spoke of the facilities being compulsory he no doubt felt that he was safe in assuming that the owners and trustees would make them an absolute part of the bargain, and that in every case where the local authority had expressed its desire to take a school compulsory they would be. He himself had studiously avoided using the word except in the sense that he recognised in the Bill as introduced—in every draft that he had seen—that the gap existed. It was quite impossible for him to have used language, except by sheer clumsiness, tending to conceal from the House the fact that it lay with the local authority in the first instance to open negotiations and decide whether or not it would take over the schools. That gap was in all the drafts and in all their minds. He recognised when it was made the subject of argument that it was perhaps a fair matter for Parliamentary comment that the gap existed. Accordingly he felt still desirous of bridging that gap, if it could be done without interfering with the authority and responsibility of the local authority for the efficient and economical management of education within its area. As to Clause 3 he could only repeat that he genuinely regretted that so important a clause should have been curtailed unnecessarily of two hours of Parliamentary time. All the Committee had got for those two hours was the warning addressed to himself, for which in all sincerity he expressed his obligation to the right hon. Gentleman.

*COLONEL WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, W.) said the hon. Member opposite had been challenged by the Leader of the Opposition in regard to certain points, and he wanted the Committee to take note of the fact that the challenge of the Leader of the Opposition had not been responded to. For himself he happened to have been in the position of a school manager before 1902 and after 1902, and he knew that now the board of managers could not order a steel pen or a bottle of ink without the consent of the county council. The school managers could not appoint a teacher or a head teacher without the leave of the county council. They had tried it and failed. All the power the managers had was to say that the teacher was able to give the religious instruction they needed. They could select the teacher. They could send his name to the county council with their approval, but if the county council said that the teacher was not fit to give secular teaching, their recommendation went for nothing. This being the state of things, if it did not give absolute control to the county council he did not know what did. The last election was won upon a good many fallacies, and one of the biggest fallacies was that the county councils had not control of the schools. There was full popular control, as he had stated over and over again at his meetings, and as he now stated to the Committee. When they consented to the alteration of their trust deeds in 1902, it was for the purposes of obtaining an advantage for their schools. [Ironical MINISTERIAL cheers.] He was glad that hon. Members agreed with him, but he would point out that now they were being asked to alter their trust deeds for nothing or even less than nothing. The Government were taking away the purposes for which the trusts were established. The ratepayers as much controlled the education rate as they did the money raised for the roads, and no one contended that the roads were not popularly controlled.

And, it being half-past Ten of the clock, the Chairman proceeded, pursuant to the Order of the House of June 18th, to put forthwith the Question, "That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 424; Noes, 109. (Division List No. 138.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert (Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (Devonp'rt)
Benn, W. (Tow'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Frances Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm J (S. Pancras, W
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Cross, Alexander
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H (St. Pancras, N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.)
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George, A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.

Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, EdmundG. (Leominster
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil(St. Pancras,E.
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M. (FalkirkB'ghs.
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah(Down,S.
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford,W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall(Lincoln)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterton, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N.(Doncaster)
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal (Tipperary,Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson,W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps,Col. Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C.E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards, T.F.(Wolverhampt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt.Hn.E. (Dundee)
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas.E.(Manchester)
Scott, A.H.(Ashton underLyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T.(Hawick, B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, ThomasF. (Leitrim,S.)
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, SirEdward(Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E)
Thomas, SirA. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E.
Thorn, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L.(Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-on-Trent)
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampt'n
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan)
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White,J.D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond(Merioneth
Williams,Llewelyn(C'r'arth'n.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson,Henry J. (York,W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson,J. W. (Worcestersh.,N.)
Wilson, P. W. (S. Pancras, S.)

Wilson, W.T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J.T. Huddersfi'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn.Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J. (City Lond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid).
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Motion made, and Question, "That the Chairman do report progress, and ask leave to sit again"—(*Mr. Lough*).—put, and agreed to.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY (IRELAND) BILL.

Order for consideration read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill, as amended, be now considered."

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.) thought it would be the general opinion of the House that this was a most inconvenient hour to start a discussion on a private Bill. He believed that never in the history of Parliament had it been proposed to commence private Bill business at this hour of the night. A great many hon. Members were at the House at three this morning, and it would be unreasonable to ask them to consider two highly contentious private Bills. So far as this Bill was concerned, if they started upon its discussion they were likely to be here until three o'clock the next day. He therefore moved the adjournment of the debate.

MR. KEIR HARDIE seconded the Motion. It was eminently desirable that the House should come to the consideration of the Bills fresher than most hon. Members were at the present moment, after practically an all-night sitting.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the debate be adjourned."—(*Mr. MacVeagh.*)

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (City of London) said no sufficient reason had been given for the postponement of the Bill, which he understood involved an expenditure of a million of money. If the Bill were rejected that money would not be spent, which might or might not be an advantage, but he had not heard any reason for it.

MR. DALZIEL (Kircaldy Burghs) hoped the Government would accept the Motion for the adjournment. The Question for them to consider was not whether a million of money was going to be spent or not as a result of the passing of this Bill, but whether the House ought to discuss it at the present time or consider it on some other more convenient occasion. If the hon. Baronet had been a Member of the House when this measure was considered before, he would have known that there were several matters of considerable importance, and they were adjourned on the understanding that they would have an opportunity when the Bill came back to the House of considering them, and of hearing what explanations would be given by the representatives of the railway company in the House. The hon. Baronet the Member for the City of London had asked them to consider this Bill to-night, and he welcomed him in his new position of asking them to pass legislation. One of the qualifications of the hon. Baronet was said to be that he could speak at any time, and at any length, upon any subject without any preparation. He hoped the Government would lend the weight of their authority in the direction of postponing this Bill. As one who was opposed to the suspension of a rule which the House had solemnly adopted, under which they adjourned at eleven o'clock, he objected to entering upon the consideration of private Bills at this late hour of the night. He hoped the supporters of the Bill would recognise, in the interests of the Bill itself, that it was the obvious desire of the House that the discussion should be adjourned.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR invited an expression of opinion from the Government on this encroachment upon the rule which made 11 o'clock the natural limit of their proceedings. Rightly or wrongly, the House had laid down that 11 o'clock was the natural limit of their proceedings, and he saw a certain objection to relegating private business to be considered after that hour. He thought they ought to have a clear statement from the Government as to what line they intended to take in connection with the general Private Bill legislation which still remained to be disposed of.

MR. ASQUITH said that by a Resolution passed yesterday the House had deliberately determined that the Private Bills should be taken, and it would be a bad precedent for a new House, in deference to a feeling of exaggerated uxoriousness, to suspend proceedings before 11 o'clock after passing such a Resolution. Of the merits of the Bill he knew nothing, and probably the discussion would be brief.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) protested against contentious Private Bills being taken after 11 o'clock. He regretted that he could not on this occasion join in the appeal which had been made by the hon. Baronet the Member for the City of London that this Bill should be proceeded with now.

*Mr. EMMOTT said that perhaps, as Chairman of Ways and Means, he was responsible for putting these Bills down on the Paper and he ought to say a word upon this question. He did not speak either as a supporter or an opponent of the Bill; therefore, anything he said had no reference to the point of merits. Two reasons for adjournment had been urged. First of all, there had been a general claim made that private business must not be taken after eleven o'clock, and in the second place it had been stated in regard to this particular night that the fact that the House was kept late last night was a reason for adjourning the private business put down. These were two separate and distinct questions. He thought it would be presumptuous for him to attempt to advise the House as to what it should do in regard to the adjournment to-night, but, as Chairman of Ways and Means, he would ask the House not to come to the general conclusion that they would not take Private Bill business after eleven o'clock. The House agreed to a Motion last night which stated that private business was to be taken after eleven o'clock on nights when the Education Bill was under discussion, though opposed, and in these circumstances it would be wrong, if he might be permitted to say so, to enter into an engagement against the taking of private business after eleven o'clock. Let him point out what might take place. Any Member could block any Bill because he disliked one clause, and he thought the result would be to introduce dire confusion into Private Bill legislation. He expressed no opinion on the question whether it would not be a good thing to adjourn the business put down for to-night, but he did beg the House not to come to any general conclusion against discussing these Bills after eleven.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said he desired to make an appeal to the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to what he thought would be the result of taking the Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill at this hour. It was a contested Bill. His hon. friends opposite meant to fight it, and he meant to help them. Hon. Members got home about three o'clock this morning, and some came back early to attend committees upstairs. He hoped the Bill would not be proceeded with now, and he appealed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer not to prolong this controversy.

Mr. ASQUITH asked which Bill was now being considered.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The English Bill.

Mr. ASQUITH said he understood that only the Irish Bill was opposed.

Mr. MACVEAGH said he objected to the principle of taking contested private business after 11 o'clock.

Mr. MORTON said that, if the Bill were not opposed, it would not be on the Paper to-night.

Mr. ASQUITH said they were sitting on a somewhat exceptional night, and he thought they might assent to the Motion for adjournment, but entirely without prejudice to the general question of private business being taken after 11 o'clock.

Question put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed to-morrow.

Adjourned at a quarter after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 20th June, 1906.

The House met at a Quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Bill; Haslingden Corporation Bill [Lords]. As amended, to be considered To-morrow.

Great Northern Railway Bill (by Order). Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [19th June], "That the Bill, as amended, be now considered."

Ordered, That the Debate be further adjourned till Monday next, at a quarter-past Eight of the clock.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; from Aberdovey; Babworth; Bosley; Brighton; Deddington; Donisthorpe; Drayton; Easthampstead (two); Elvaston (two); Everton; Great and Little Chesterford; Lacock; Paddington; and Walton-on-Trent; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; from Ball's Pond; Bartlow (two); Bottisham; Brinkley (two); Castle Camps; Castle Eden; Cheltenham; Chettisham (two); Cheveley (two); Christ Church and Upper St. Leonards; Duxford (two); Fen Ditton; Fordham (two); Hildersham (two); Hinxton (two); Horningsey; Ickleton (two); Isleham (two); Kennett (two); Linton (two); Lode (two); Middlestown (two); Pampisford; Sawston; Shermanbury; Snailwell; Soham; Stetchworth; Steyning; Stow cum Quy (two); Stuntney; Weston Colville; West Wickham; and Wicken; to lie upon the Table.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Petitions for alteration of Law; from Barton-upon-Irwell; and Driffield; to lie upon the Table.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petitions for alteration; from Bedfordshire (South); Brighton; Cardiff, Cowbridge, and Llantrissant; Derby (West); Derbyshire (North East); Eccles (two); Eckington; Hanley; Hastings (two); Islington (North) (two); Kensington (North); Kirkby Stephen; Kirkcaldy; Luton; Merthyr Tydfil (two); Nottingham (East); Twickenham (two); Wakefield; Westmoreland (North); and Whitby; to lie upon the Table.

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS) BILL [LORDS].

Petition from Hackney, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copies presented, of Colonial Report No. 484 (Bermuda, Annual Report for 1905) and 485 (Hong Kong, Annual Report for 1905) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1859.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 16th June, 1906, respecting the addition of years to be assigned, for pension purposes, to certain offices under the Board of Education [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

CIVIL LIST PENSIONS.

Copy presented, of List of all Pensions granted during the year ended 31st March, 1906, and payable under the provisions of Section 9 (1) of The Civil List Act, 1901 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 205.]

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS' FOUNDATION.

Copy presented, of Statement of the estimated Income and Expenditure of Greenwich Hospital and of Travers' Foundation for the year 1906–7 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 206.]

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3646 and 3647 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Provision for Widow and Children of late Petty Officer George Howe.

MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that first class Petty Officer George Howe died recently in Hastings Hospital after undergoing a number of surgical operations, that George Howe had served in the Royal Navy for twenty years, and was, at the time of his death, serving as a coastguard at Bexhill, that his widow and four young children are unprovided for, and are dependent upon private charity; and whether the Admiralty propose to make any provision for the widow and children.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) This second class petty officer (commissioned boatman) had only seventeen years seven days service counting towards pension. He died on active service, and there is therefore nothing due on account of pension, and the widow and children are not eligible for assistance from naval funds. He was, however, entitled to £2 good-conduct gratuity, and steps will be taken to pay this to the widow. No provision in the shape of pension or gratuity can be made from the funds at Greenwich Hospital for the widow, as Howe's death was not attributable to accident or extraordinary exposure or exertion on duty. The children are eligible for consideration for admission to homes at the expense of Greenwich Hospital, and application may be made on their behalf to the Admiralty, stating their names and ages.

Publication of Inspector's Report on the Case of M'Glone.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will make available to hon. Members a copy of the inspector's report in the recent case of M'Glone, with the name of the inspector, his qualifications, experience, at whose instance he was first employed, and any explanation he has to offer of his conduct in fixing the value that he did on M'Glone's holding.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The reports of the inspectors are confidential, being made for the information of the Estates Commissioners only, and it would be contrary to practice and to public policy to lay them upon the Table of the House. The Commissioners do not think it desirable to state the name of the inspector in the present case. They themselves are answerable for any action which they may take upon their inspectors' reports.

Publication of Information by the Irish Board of Intermediate Education.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the information which he has declined to give to the House of Commons in reference to the recent proceedings of the Board of intermediate Education in Ireland has been communicated to a Dublin newspaper, together with an announcement that the Board has decided by a large majority to disregard the recent unanimous decision of the House of Commons in reference to its rules; and whether he will not, in view of these facts, make a full statement of all the facts in relation to the action of the Board in this matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) Until I saw the hon. Member's Question I did not know that any statement of the nature indicated had appeared in a Dublin newspaper, nor do I know what the statement was. The fact, however, is that the Board have, since I last answered a Question on this subject, informed the Irish Government that they find it impossible to prepare a new set of rules in time to enable them to be approved by the Lord-Lieutenant and lie forty days on the Table of both Houses before August; and that, as the gravest inconvenience would be caused to the numerous schools which prepare pupils for the Board's examinations if the programme of those examinations were not announced by the month of August, they find that the only course open to them is to continue the existing programme, viz., that in force for 1906. They accordingly propose to submit to the Lord-Lieutenant for his approval the rules for 1906. This is a purely temporary expedient, rendered necessary, in the opinion of the Board, by the shortness of the time available.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Claim of Mary Anne Mortland.

MR. McVEIGH (Donegal, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the attention of the Estates Commissioners has been called to the claim of Mary Anne Mortland, to the farm of her father, Joseph Mortland who was evicted from his holding on the Wilson Estate, Carnone, Raphoe, East Donegal, in 1894, and has since died in Australia; and, if not, whether he will direct them to send down an inspector to inquire into her case, seeing that Moses Wallace is in the full enjoyment of her farm; and whether he will say if Miss Mortland, now come of age, will be in some way restored to her farm, or be paid the value of it.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received from Miss Mortland an application for reinstatement in the holding from which her late father was evicted. This holding has been bought under the Land Purchase Acts by Moses Wallace, the present occupier, with whom the Commissioners have no power to interfere. The Commissioners, however, will consider Miss Mortland's application in the event of their acquiring untenanted land in the neighbourhood.

Case of John Riordan.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the attention of the Estates Commissioners has been repeatedly called to the case of John Riordan, Gneeves, Glantane, Mallow, an evicted tenant on the Grant Estate; and in view of the fact that the estate has been purchased some time since, the case has been considered; and, if so, with what result.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners have referred the case of John Riordan to one of their inspectors for inquiry, and are awaiting the receipt of his report in the matter.

Report of the Irish Consultative Committee of Education.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will lay upon the Table of the House, as a Command Paper, a copy of the Report drawn up by the Consultative Committee of Education consequent upon the communications that passed between the late Irish Government and the representatives of the Committee in November, 1905.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I have received a copy of the Report in question, which is marked private and confidential, but I cannot find that the Report has ever been formally presented. It deals with matters which are now under the consideration of the Irish Government, and I cannot, as at present advised, undertake to present it to Parliament.

Sale of the Roberts Estate, County Longford.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any negotiations are pending for the sale of the Roberts Estate, in the parish of Newtown Cashel, county Longford; whether he is aware that, amongst seven others, Patrick Casserly, of Culnagore Wood, was evicted in 1889, his farm since remaining derelict; whether he is aware that in the course of negotiations for the sale of this property the solicitor in charge has stated that Casserly's holding, along with some fifty acres of plantation, has been let to a planter tenant for the purposes of sale under the Land Purchase Act of 1903; whether such a tenancy can be so created; and whether, in the interest of the general peace of the district, he will suggest to the Estates Commissioners not to consider this application until they first exhaust the provisions of

The Land Purchase Act, 1903, for the restoration of evicted tenants to their holdings.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they are not aware whether negotiations are pending for the sale of the estate referred to. No proceedings in the case have yet come before them, and they have no information as to the estate itself or as to the statements alleged to have been made in the course of the negotiations. The evicted tenant, Patrick Casserly, referred to in the Question, has been provided with another holding in the county of Dublin, and is in occupation of it.

Refusal of Gun Licence to Mr. Daniel Casey.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a licence to carry a gun has been refused by Mr. Orr, R.M., to Mr. Daniel Casey, of Grawn Kilmacthomas; what are the grounds of such refusal; whether he is aware that Mr. Orr, R.M., considers it his duty in all cases when applied to for a gun licence to ascertain whether there is a possibility of the applicant, in the view of local landlords and land agents, using the gun to shoot game, even though the applicant would become entitled to obtain a game licence on first obtaining the magistrate's licence; and whether he will inform Mr. Orr that he has no justification for refusing such an application on any grounds other than such as relate to the peace of the district, and that the preservation of game for the benefit of a limited class is not part of his duty.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed that the fact is as stated in the first part of the Question. The power of issuing licences under the Peace Preservation Act is vested in the resident magistrate, and it would be contrary to practice to state in this House the grounds of refusal in a particular case. I think it right, however, to state that Mr. Orr informs me that the question of the preservation of game does not in any way influence his decision in such cases, and that he makes no inquiry from this point of view. All resident magistrates are made aware of the fact that the Act was passed for the preservation of life and property and not for the protection of game.

Royal Irish Constabulary Sergeants in Belfast with over Thirty Years Service.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many sergeants of the Royal Irish Constabulary in Belfast are at present serving with over thirty years service.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Inspector-General informs me that there are at present serving in Belfast fifteen sergeants of the Royal Irish Constabulary who have had over thirty years service.

Sergeant Long, Royal Irish Constabulary.

MR. McKILLOP (Armagh, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state whether Sergeant Long, Royal Irish Constabulary, recently appointed to Loughgall, county Armagh, was appointed to this district on his own application, or whether he was transferred by order of the Inspector-General; and whether this sergeant, while stationed at Poyntzpass, was repeatedly reported for the manner in which he discharged his duties.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Inspector-General informs me that he transferred Sergeant Long to Loughgall upon the recommendation of the county inspector and not upon the sergeant's own application. The only complaint made against the sergeant while he was stationed at Poyntzpass was one contained in an anonymous letter, which was found on inquiry to be without foundation.

Religious Persuasion of Royal Irish Constabulary Sergeant Stationed at Poyntzpass.

MR. McKILLOP: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that the present sergeant of the Royal Irish Constabulary stationed at Poyntzpass, county Armagh, is of a different religion from the majority of the inhabitants; will he say whether this also applied to his predecessors; whether a sergeant professing the same religion as the majority of the inhabitants has ever been appointed to this town; and whether, seeing that there is no magistrate sitting at Poyntzpass Petty Sessions of the same religion as the majority of the inhabitants, he will consider the advisability of at least appointing a sergeant whose religious views are in sympathy with those of the inhabitants.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Inspector-General informs me that the sergeant of Royal Irish Constabulary at Poyntzpass is a Protestant, as were his predecessors for a number of years past. The inhabitants of the village itself are about equally divided as between Catholics and Protestants, but the latter are largely in the majority in the district of which the village forms part. The Inspector-General does not propose to remove the present sergeant, who impartially discharges his duties.

Pressure for Payment of Rents on the Faulkner Estate.

MR. HAMMOND (Carlow): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware, with reference to the Faulkner Estate, Springhill, Queen's County, that many poor tenants on this property, notwithstanding that under the agreement in this matter they were to be relieved of the payment of one year's rent, are now being pressed for payment of this year's rent; and will he endeavour to induce the Estates Commissioners to effect an early definitive settlement in this case.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners have no knowledge whether pressure for the payment of rent is taking place in the case of this estate. The Commissioners expect that they will be able, by the end of this month, to make an offer for the purchase of the estate.

Residence in Precincts of Workhouse of Family of the Master.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Local Government Board has any rule in force with regard to residence in the precincts of a workhouse of the family of which the father is master of the workhouse and the mother is the matron of the same institution.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Answer is in the negative. It is not the practice of the Local Government Board to prevent the children of a master and matron from residing with their parents in the workhouse, assuming that the children are not of an age to provide for themselves. Each case is decided by the Board upon its merits.

Religious Instruction of Catholic Children in Armagh Workhouse.

MR. MACVEAGH: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what steps have been taken, or will be taken, by the Local Government Board to secure that the Catholic children in the Armagh Workhouse will receive adequate religious instruction; and whether, seeing that this matter has been under consideration for four years, he can say when the Local Government Board intends to deal with it.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed that in the year 1903 the guardians of the Armagh Union, despite the protest of the Local Government Board, dispensed with the services of the assistant teacher, who had also acted as Catholic catechist. The Board have since repeatedly urged the guardians to appoint a successor, and have expressed their willingness to allow recoupment from the local taxation fund upon the salary involved. The guardians, however, have declined to make any appointment, and, under the existing regulations, the Board have no power to compel them to do so.

Religious Denominations of County Armagh Police Force.

MR. MACVEAGH: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the numbers of the different religious denominations in the police force in county Antrim; how many have been promoted from the seniority list since the appointment of County Inspector Reeves, and to what religious denominations they belong; and how many have been promoted by competitive examination from the P list during the same period, and to what religious denominations they belong.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the Inspector-General that there are at present 126 Protestants and 112 Roman Catholics in the county Antrim force. Since the appointment of County Inspector Reeves to take charge of the county there have been twenty promotions from the seniority list, and of this number fourteen were Protestants and six Catholics. In the same period seven men were promoted from the P list by competitive examination, of whom two were Protestants and five Catholics.

Portuguese Kaffirs in the Witwatersrand Mines.

MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what is the total number of African natives employed in the Witwatersrand mines, and what proportion are Portuguese subjects; whether the work performed by such last-mentioned natives is similar in character to that discharged by Chinese coolies; whether the importation of these Portuguese Kaffirs is subject to any and what regulations; whether there is any substantial difference either in the methods and regulations relating to the housing and control, in and out of working hours, between these Kaffirs and the Chinese coolies who are working under the terms of the Chinese Labour Ordinance; and, if not, what steps the Government have taken, or propose to take, in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) On 31st March 84,409 African natives were employed on the Witwatersrand gold mines, of whom about 60 per cent. were Portuguese subjects. The work performed by them is similar to that performed by Chinese coolies. These Portuguese Kaffirs are engaged on yearly contracts. As regards housing and control, the position of both classes of labourers is described by Lord Selborne, in his despatch of 18th September last, published in Cd. 2786, as being similar, but there is the substantial difference that the Chinese labourers are brought in under the terms of the Labour Importation Ordinances, which place them under certain special restrictions and disabilities.

Chinese Translation of the Repatriation Proclamation.

MR. VERNEY (Buckinghamshire, N.): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will make investigations as to the translation into Chinese of the recent repatriation proclamation in South Africa, and will he have any inaccuracies rectified in England; will he, in case any further proclamation is issued which has to be translated, have that translation made in this country by those who can be trusted to do it accurately; and whether he will take means to secure that the authorised Chinese version, and none other, shall be used.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) Inquiry will be made as to the variation between the recent translation of the proclamation and the terms as read by me to the House.

Wages in Royal Dockyards.

MR. J. WILLIAMS BENN (Devonport): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the official inquiry now proceeding in order to make the wages in the Royal dockyards equal, all things considered, to those which obtain outside, he proposes to make any inquiry, privately or otherwise, into the wages and conditions of the men in the Navy who, owing to the nature of their engagement, do not benefit from the action of trades union organisations.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) There is no analogy between dockyard employment and service in the Royal Navy. From time to time the conditions of service among the various classes of men employed in the Navy are investigated, but no reason is seen for holding any special inquiry at the present time.

Arming of the "County" Class of Cruisers.

MR. NIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will state what would be the cost of bringing the armament of the ten cruisers of the "County" class up to the strength necessary to render them fit to engage in action with contemporary armoured vessels of other Powers; and whether, having regard to their small fighting value, as at present armed, compared with the cost to the nation of building and maintaining them in commission, it would be cheaper to incur the additional outlay necessary to constitute them efficient armoured cruisers than to leave them in their present condition.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The cost of re-arming and protecting with thicker armour cruisers of the "County" class would be prohibitive, and its effect would probably be seriously to reduce their speed. As regards the second part of the Question, the reply is in the negative.

Chatham Dockyard Discharges.

Mr. E. H. LAMB (Rochester): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will give an assurance that no further discharges shall take place at Chatham Dockyard during the current year, ending March 31st, 1907.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) No such assurance can be given; but it is not anticipated that more discharges other than those already arranged for will take place.

Chatham Dockyard and the Repair of H.M.S. "Montagu."

Mr. E. H. LAMB: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if H.M.S. "Montagu" may be brought to Chatham Dockyard for repair in the event of her being refloated.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) Chatham is not considered a suitable dockyard for the repair of the "Montagu.'

The Hyde Park Fountains.

Mr. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthenshire, W.): To ask the First Commissioner of Works whether he will state the number of days in each year since January 1st, 1900, on which the fountains at the north end of the Serpentine have played; and what has been the annual cost of their repair and maintenance during the same period, and the initial cost, and upon whom it fell.

(*Answered by Mr. Harcourt.*) The fountains usually play from Easter to the end of September, but no register is kept of the actual number of days. There is no record of the initial cost of the fountains, and I regret that I am unable to furnish the annual cost of maintenance, as the pumps which work these fountains supply also the Round Pond and the Serpentine.

Procedure Committee—Date of next Meeting.

Mr. BLAKE (Longford, S.): To ask the right hon. Member for Wolverhampton, as Chairman of the Select Committee on Procedure of the House of Commons, when he proposes to call together the Committee for the prosecution of the reference.

(*Answered by Sir Henry Fowler.*) I am trying to arrange an early day for the next meeting of the Committee.

Maintenance and Work of the Imperial Institute.

Mr. LAIDLAW (Renfrewshire, E.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade, having regard to the fact that the charges for the internal maintenance of the Imperial Institute buildings are borne out of funds administered by the Imperial Institute and the University of London, whether he will give a detailed statement showing the yearly income of the Imperial Institute and the sources from which it is derived; and whether, as the institute belongs to the nation, and the cost of the external maintenance of the institute buildings is borne from public funds, he will direct the submission to Parliament of an annual report on the institute, accompanied by a detailed statement of its receipts and expenditure, thus following the practice adopted in respect to the Indian Section.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) A report on the work of the Imperial Institute at South Kensington during 1905, with a financial statement, will shortly be presented to Parliament.

Staff of the Imperial Institute.

Mr. LAIDLAW: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the staff of the Imperial Institute is recruited in the ordinary way by the Civil Service Commission or by private patronage.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) No members of the Imperial Institute staff are established Civil Servants, and consequently they are not engaged through the Civil Service Commission.

Checking of the Board of Trade Customs Returns.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that practically no entries in the Free Import Registers at the Statistical Department of His Majesty's Customs had been checked for about four years, until the 12th June, 1906, and that the checking of the entries in the British export registers had been intermittent and cursory; and whether, in view of the importance of the Board of Trade Returns of Imports and Exports, and the need for accuracy and reliability, he will take steps to ensure an adequate and efficient supervising staff for the Statistical Office, seeing that during the past ten years, in consequence of the large and important amplification of the returns, the total staff has increased over 60 per cent., while the supervising staff, many of whom have been brought into the Statistical Office possessing no knowledge of statistical work, is considerably less than that in 1895.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I am informed that during the past four years entries have been checked from time to time into the Free Import and British Export Registers, and, in addition, further checks are, and have been applied at various stages of the work in the course of each month, the whole being considered sufficient to insure reasonable accuracy in the accounts. The staff of the Statistical Office in 1895 consisted of 163 persons. Of this number forty-eight were of higher rank than abstractor, while five of the latter rank were in receipt of checking allowances. But the supervising staff was then considered to be in excess of requirements, and the number was in consequence in course of reduction. At the present time the staff consists of 236 persons. Of this number thirty-three are above the rank of abstractor, while thirty-two of the latter grade are now in receipt of checking allowances. The existing supervising staff, together with the checking abstractors, is considered by the Commissioners of Customs to be sufficient to provide for the necessary checking.

Increased Charge for Ordnance Maps.

MR. LLOYD MORGAN: To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he will state the reason for the increased charge from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per sheet for Ordnance maps: whether he will state what the result has been of increasing the charge by fifty per cent. on the sale of the maps during the last five years as compared with the sale for the five years previous to the increase of price.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) In order to cover the cost of production it was found necessary to increase the price of the small scale maps which are mounted on linen, but the price of the same maps unmounted and folded in a cover, has not been altered. The change was only made in January, 1905, and no comparison for five years can therefore be given.

British Forestry.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, what steps have been taken to carry into effect the recommendation of the Departmental Committee of 1902 on British Forestry; and whether any communication has been addressed to corporations and municipalities relative to the Committee's recommendation as to the desirability of planting with trees the catchment areas of their water supply.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) 1. The Departmental Committee recommended that the Alice Holt Woods in Hampshire should be made available as soon as possible to serve as a demonstration area in England. This has been done. A full report as to the past history, present position, and future management of these woods has been prepared by Dr. Schlich at the request of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, and the recommendations made therein are being systematically carried out. A certain amount of experimental planting has already taken place. Copies of Dr. Schlich's report, illustrated by plans, can be had on application to the Commissioners. It was also recommended that a suitable estate should be purchased in Scotland to serve as another demonstration area. Several properties have been brought to the notice of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, but, for various reasons, they did not appear suitable for the purpose. Two additional properties are now under consideration, and as soon as a suitable estate has been found the Treasury will be approached with a view to purchase. 2. The recommendation of the Departmental Committee that lecturers should appointed at Oxford and Cambridge has to some extent been met by the augmentation of the salary of the Sibthorpian Professor of Rural Economy at Oxford, who is now the Professor of Forestry Botany. It is understood that an estate will be placed at his disposal for demonstration purposes. 3. A sum of £500 a year, which was placed by the Treasury at the disposal of the Board for the establishment of lectureships in forestry, has been allocated to the University College of North Wales at Bangor and the Armstrong College at Newcastle-on-Tyne. The results have been most encouraging. A considerable number of students have been found desirous of taking a full collegiate course of study, good classes of practical foresters and others have been conducted at selected local centres, while there has been a constant demand on the part of landowners for expert advice from the lecturer. 4. A school for working woodmen has been established by the Commissioners of Woods and Forests in the Forest of Dean, and is now in the third year of its existence. From eighteen to twenty youths are receiving instruction. 5. Legislation would be necessary to remove the inequality in the levy of the estate duty on timber, and it has not been possible hitherto to take any steps in this direction. The matter has, however, not been lost sight of. 6. The Railway Fires Act, 1905, which comes into force on the 1st January 1908, will give some protection to owners of woods against loss by fire caused by sparks from locomotives. 7. Special inquiries were made in 1905, with a view of ascertaining the extent of land now occupied by woods in Great Britain, and the results have been published in the Agricultural Returns for that year. The three categories suggested by the Departmental Committee were adopted. 8. With the object of ascertaining the districts in which local authorities have developed the catchment area of their water supplies by afforestation, the Board communicated with the Local Government Boards for England and Scotland, who sent out a circular letter to all local authorities asking for a Return. The results were tabulated and published in the journal of the Board of Agriculture for November 1904. A leaflet on the relation of Woods to Domestic Water Supply was published in January 1904, and a large number of copies have been issued. The Board are keeping the various recommendations of the Departmental Committee steadily in view, and they hope to be able from time to time to proceed further in the directions indicated in their Report.

Payment of School Grants.

SIR CARNE RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): To ask the President of the Board of Education, whether he has considered the representation made to him by the elementary education authorities of the inconvenience caused by withholding payment of the annual grant until the expiration of the school year; whether he contemplates the resumption of quarterly payments; and, if so, when.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) As I stated in reply to an oral Question from the Member for Stoke-on-Trent, on February 22nd last,† the annual grant has never been paid on a regular system of quarterly instalments. Ever since the first establishment of the annual grant, forty years ago, it has not been paid until after the close of the school year, and I am not aware that any confusion has thereby been occasioned. It has only been within the last three financial years that a partial and essentially temporary expedient has been resorted to by which certain limited sums have been paid in advance. The representations made to the Board on this matter have been fully considered in conjunction with the Treasury. The resumption of quarterly payments is not contemplated, but a careful investigation is being made by a special committee, appointed for the purpose, to consider whether some re-arrangement of the scheme of paying grants in respect of elementary education cannot be effected, under which the sums payable to local authorities may in future be more evenly distributed throughout the financial year. But the problem is an extremely difficult one, and I must not be supposed to be holding out any substantial expectation that it can be solved this year, in view of all the circumstances.

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† See *Debates*, clii., 509.

National Gallery and the Chantrey Bequest Fund.

MR. MIDDLEMORE (Birmingham, N.): To ask the Prime Minister whether the Government or the trustees of the National Gallery, or both of these bodies, have the power to refuse to hang pictures, which may be offered them for that purpose by the trustees of the Chantrey Bequest Fund, if they consider such pictures unsuitable for permanent exhibition; and whether they have power to return to the trustees such pictures as they may consider it to be unadvisable to retain.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) The Treasury letter of 11th November, 1898, to the Royal Academy gave the trustees of the National Gallery no power to reject Chantrey pictures; and by a letter of 29th November 1898 the trustees concurred in the Treasury arrangement.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

German Naval Programme.

MR. BEAUCHAMP (Suffolk, Lowestoft): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he has any official information showing that the two new German battleships to be laid down will have a displacement of 19,000 tons instead of 18,000, as intimated in the preamble to the German Naval Estimates.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): There is no official information on this point.

Admiralty Contracts and Trades Union Wages.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether Messrs. Richards, Limited, Aberdeen, are on the list of contractors for this Department; whether he is aware that the wages earned by their women workers are in some cases as low as 3s. 4d. per week, and the average for the firm is 7s. 6d. per week; that sixty of the women have been discharged for having joined a trade union, and have been told that they will only be reinstated on giving an undertaking to withdraw from the union; and what action he proposes taking in the matter.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Messrs. Richards, Limited, are on the Admiralty list of contractors. No complaint has hitherto been received as to the rates of wages paid by this firm, but inquiries will be made.

Gun Practice in the Thames Estuary.

MR. WHITEHEAD (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what steps he has taken to prevent such firing from Sheerness into the navigable channels of the Thames estuary as occurred early in May last.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. BUCHANAN, Perthshire, E.): It is the navigable channels of the Thames that the guns at Sheerness are intended to protect. And if any useful practice with these guns is to be carried out it is manifestly impossible to avoid firing over these channels. Strict safety regulations are laid down and observed, and no shot is fired over any water when there are vessels in dangerous proximity. The Secretary of State believes that every possible precaution against the possibility of danger is taken by the responsible officers concerned.

Shoebury Battery Gun Practice.

MR. WHITEHEAD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the fact that on June 4th, when a party of nine persons in a bawley from Leigh-on-Sea were fishing off South Shoebury gas buoy, west of the Admiralty beacon, and outside the sands, a shot from Shoebury battery struck the water not more than twenty yards from the bow of the boat; whether this was done in conformity with the amended regulations issued by the Secretary of State last month; and whether he will make further Amendments to the regulations, and will issue further and effective instructions to the responsible officer at Shoebury in order to avoid all risk to the public using the estuary.

MR. BUCHANAN: Careful inquiry has been made, but no information of any occurrence of the kind on the day mentioned has been received. The precautions under the regulations, which are of a very strict nature, were in force, as on all other occasions, throughout the firing on that day. Expert officers and non-commissioned officers are specially on duty to see the regulations carried out. None of these officers or non-commissioned officers observed or heard of any such occurrence.

MR. WHITEHEAD: If I satisfy the hon. Gentleman that this event actually took place, will more stringent regulations be issued?

MR. BUCHANAN: I will inquire further, of course, if the hon. Gentleman can give me additional information.

Ireland and Army Meat Contracts.

MR. EDWARD BARRY (Cork, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has received a Resolution recently adopted by a Committee representing the cattle trade of the southern half of Ireland, strongly protesting against the recent innovation in the tender forms for the supply of meat to the Army, whereby the words "home-killed" are substituted for "home-fed" as hitherto specified; and, if so, will steps be taken to revert to the old form of tender when contracts are being taken for supplying the Army with meat.

MR. BUCHANAN: Several representations from Ireland have reached the Secretary of State, but he is not able to identify the particular Resolution to which the hon. Member refers. As the Secretary of State has already said, it is not proposed to revert to the old form of tender.

The Unrest in Bengal.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in view of the action of the Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam, in dispersing by force the Bengal Provincial Conference, in preventing and breaking up peaceful and religious processions, in interfering with municipal commissioners and honorary magistrates and other persons who are in favour of the Swadeshi movement, in the frequent prosecution of schoolboys and in other measures, he proposes to hold an inquiry by means of a Commission, or otherwise, in order to devise means of allaying the unrest which now prevails in the new Province.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): As I stated in reply to a Question on May 14th,† it is the wish and the intention of the Government to take such measures as may seem most likely to allay unrest. But I am not at all disposed to think that a Commission is necessary, nor do I think that it would be desirable.

Railway Rates from Delagoa Bay.

MR. O'GRADY: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is aware that an agreement was entered into between Lord Milner and the Portuguese Government providing that in return for permission to recruit native labour for the mines in the Transvaal from Portuguese territory, a preference in railway rates was arranged for goods being sent up country from Delagoa Bay to Johannesburg; whether his attention has been called to the statement contained in the report of the Port Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce to the effect that the preference in railway rates from Delagoa Bay as against East London and Durban ranges from

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvii., 177.

10s. to 15s. per ton; and what action he proposes to take in the matter.

The UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): The Secretary of State is aware of the facts referred to by the hon. Member, and the matter is at present forming the subject of negotiation with the Portuguese Government.

Repatriation Proclamation.

MR. GOOCH (Bath): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the attention of the Secretary of State for the Colonies has been called to a translation of the Repatriation Proclamation, which has recently appeared, containing a concluding sentence ordering the Chinese in threatening terms to tremble and obey; whether this sentence was actually posted in the compounds; and, if so, why it was omitted from the version read to the House.

MR. CHURCHILL: The version which I read to the House was that supplied to the Secretary of State by the High Commissioner before the notice was posted at the mines, and I need scarcely add that it was to the best of my belief a true and complete version in every respect. Inquiry will now be made upon both the translations from English into Chinese and back again from Chinese into English to ascertain whether they have gained anything in substance or style during either operation.

MR. VERNEY (Buckinghamshire, N.) asked whether in the case of any further proclamation the translation would be made in this country by those who could be trusted, and whether the hon. Gentleman would take care that the authorised Chinese translation, and no other, would be used in future.

MR. CHURCHILL: The course we shall take with regard to any further proclamation must necessarily depend on the result of our inquiries into the first.

MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): Is it not a fact that every Chinese authority in London who has been consulted differs in his version of the proclamation?

[No Answer was returned].

Zulu Prisoners and the Kimberley Mines.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Zulu prisoners charged with rebellion are being drafted to Kimberley; and whether the object is to send them into the diamond mines.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State is not aware that any natives concerned in the recent outbreaks in Natal and Zululand are employed, or are likely to be employed, upon the Kimberley diamond mines. A number of long-sentence prisoners have been removed from Natal to the Cape Colony to make room in Natal gaols for persons awaiting trial upon charges of rebellion. Such a proceeding is entirely within the competence of the Natal and Cape Colony Governments and under the sanction of their laws.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Is the hon. Gentleman aware that the Kimberley mines are worked by convicts, and is there not a danger that these prisoners may be utilised by the Cape Government for that purpose?

MR. CHURCHILL: I am aware that convict labour is used in the mines.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent) asked whether the hon. Gentleman would make such representation to the authorities in South Africa as would prevent the possibility of such an occurrence as the hiring out of political prisoners to the monopolists of the diamond mines.

MR. CHURCHILL: I will bring the opinion which has been expressed by the hon. Member to the notice of the Secretary of State.

The Native Rebellion in South Africa.

MR. BYLES: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if his official reports show that the death of the native chief Bambaata, now officially reported, will tend to check the alleged rebellion, or to increase the native disaffection in South Africa.

MR. CHURCHILL: The news which the Secretary of State has received shows that the Natal Government believe that the native disturbance will shortly be at an end; and that the death in action of the native chief Bambaata will prove to have aided and accelerated its conclusion.

Martial Law in Natal.

MR. BYLES: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether now that some rebel chiefs have been killed while others have surrendered, and the native levies has been disbanded, there will be an immediate termination of the state of martial law in Natal.

MR. CHURCHILL: It is a matter for the Natal Ministers to decide how soon the state of martial law in that Colony may be terminated.

MR. BYLES asked whether His Majesty's Government would request the Government of Natal to abolish martial law at least in those provinces where they did not consider military operations necessary.

MR. CHURCHILL: The inconvenience resulting from martial law in Natal falls wholly on the people of that Colony, and I cannot conceive that they would be willing to subject themselves to its onerous provisions a day longer than public safety demands.

MR. BYLES: I am not quite satisfied yet. Do the Government not consider that our responsibility to the native population imposes on us the duty of protecting them from the illegal tribunal under martial law?

*MR. SPEAKER: That is rather an argumentative Question.

The Macedonian Budget.

MR. LYNCH (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can state the amount of the deficit in the Macedonian Budget for 1905, and the amount expended on military and on civil expenditure respectively; and whether he can give similar figures for 1904, and any estimate made by the Financial Commission for 1906 under the above heads.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury; for Sir EDWARD GREY): The deficit in the Macedonian Budget for the year ending March 13th, 1906, was £687,855. The military expenditure for the same year was £1,303,161, and the civil expenditure £678,223. The deficit on the Macedonian Budget for the year ending March 13th, 1907, has been estimated at £747,778. The military expenditure for the same year has been estimated at £1,344,690, a reduction of £636,210 on that of 1904, and the civil expenditure at £768,697. The Financial Commission have not furnished any statistics for the year ending March 13th, 1905.

Massacres of Jews in Russia—British Opinion.

MR. STUART SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will inform the Government of Russia, prior to any steps being taken to establish closer ties of friendship with this country, of the views held by the British people concerning the massacre of Jews in Russia.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The impression which has been made, and the sympathy which has been aroused, not only in this country, but everywhere, by disturbances and loss of life in Russia, is well-known to the Russian Government, and these are not matters in which official diplomatic intervention is usual or desirable.

Experiments on Living Animals.

MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the inspector's Returns of experiments on living animals, which are now overdue, are likely to be laid before the House; and whether he can see his way to expedite their submission.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): This Return is now in the printer's hands, and it is hoped that it may be available by the beginning of next week.

Workmen's Compensation Insurances.

MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether in view of the difficulty of insuring compensation to some of the new classes compensated for accident and disease by the present Workmen's Compensation Bill, based on individual responsibility, and in view of the unnecessary expense to which employers and the community are put by individual insurance with private companies, he will take steps to set up or advise a Royal Commission to consider the possibilities of collective or State insurance based on collective responsibility.

*MR. GLADSTONE : I must refer the hon. Member to the speech I made on the Second Reading of the Bill† when the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean, moved, "that this House desires such recognition and guarantee of insurance as to prevent the defeat of legal expectation of compensation created under the law." I have nothing to add to the statement I then made.

Prussian Cigarette Makers.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has any information respecting the expulsion of some 1,000 alien cigarette makers from Prussia ; and whether any considerable number of these persons are likely to come to this country.

*MR. GLADSTONE : I have no information on the statement contained in the Question. Perhaps my hon. friend will let me have any particulars on the subject which have come to his notice.

Convicts' Licences.

MR. PICKERSGILL : I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the dismissal, last week, by the magistrate at the Thames Police Court, of a charge of failing to report brought by the police against an ex-convict on licence ; and whether, having regard to the fact that the publicity of such a charge destroys a man's chance of earning an honest livelihood, he will instruct the police that a public prosecution for such an offence is not to follow as a matter of course, but that a proper discretion must be exercised.

*MR. GLADSTONE : The hon. Member's suggestion represents the existing practice. Licence-holders who fail to report are not prosecuted as a matter of course. Every case is carefully considered on its merits, and the licence-holder is not charged if he can show any sufficient excuse for his failure to report. If there is any reason to think that a licence-holder was genuinely trying to make an honest living, this would have much weight in his favour. In nearly 50 per cent. of the cases where an ex-convict fails to report and is apprehended, police court proceedings are not taken. In the present case, after inquiry into the facts, I am satisfied that the charge was properly brought. In these circumstances no fresh instructions to the Police appear to me to be necessary.

Merchandise Marks.

MR. SEDDON (Lancashire, Newton) : I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the evasion of the Merchandise Marks Act by the importation of parts of watches which do not bear the mark of the country of origin ; and whether he can apply the Act to the goods stated.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs) : I am aware of the importations referred to, but the Merchandise Marks Act, while prohibiting the application of false trade descriptions, nowhere prescribes the marking of all foreign made goods imported. If, however, the question relates to the fraudulent sale as English of watches made up of foreign made parts, the Board of Trade had been in communication with representatives of the watch trade, and have assured them that if a specific case is submitted to them in accordance with the regulations under the Merchandise Marks Act, it will be carefully considered.

MR. PAUL (Northampton) asked whether the Merchandise Marks Act had not served as a gratuitous advertisement for cheap foreign goods.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE : I am sorry to say I believe that has been the case up to the present moment.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clv., 536 *et seq.*

Glamorgan Education Authority.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): On behalf of the hon. Member for Gravesend, I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether his attention has been called to an attempt made by the Glamorgan education authority to utilise the labour certificate examinations as a test of general school efficiency; and whether this action is compatible with the regulations of the Board of Education, and what steps the Board propose to take to safeguard the educational interests of the schools.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): My attention has been called to this matter and the local education authority has been informed that the Board of Education cannot accede to any arrangement by which His Majesty's Inspectors' examinations of individual children in a school for labour certificates shall be converted into a general examination of the whole school.

Government Amendments to the Education Bill—Clause 4.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education how soon the House will be in possession of the Amendments, or any of them, which the Government propose to make in the Education Bill.

MR. BIRRELL: I will see that the Government's new provisions in respect of Clause 4 will appear amongst the Amendments circulated on Saturday morning.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) asked if, to afford opportunity for consideration of the Amendments before entering upon discussion of Clause 4 and to allow notice of Amendments to the Amendments, should such appear desirable, the Government proposals could be made known to the House on Friday.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said this was a reasonable request, and he would do his best to have the Amendments to the clause put on the Paper on Thursday night. But, of course, he could give no definite promise.

Sheep Scab in Northumberland.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether, in view of the limited character of the outbreaks of sheep scab of recent years in Northumberland, he will consider the sufficiency for the purpose of stamping out the disease of enforcing drastic fines and penalties on farms where the disease is discovered, instead of continuing in force the Sheep Dipping (North of England) Order of 1906, which is applicable to all farms, whether affected or not, and is a source of widespread irritation.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): The suggestion made by my hon. friend was considered by the Departmental Committeee on Sheep Scab and also by the Board, but legislation would be necessary in order to carry it into effect, and I am afraid that the proposal is not one which would commend itself to Parliament.

Sheep Dipping (North of England) Order.

MR. TREVELYAN: I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether the attention of the Board has been called to the effect of the Sheep Dipping (North of England) Order, which requires that sheep which have been dipped on or shortly before July 31st shall be dipped a second time before they can be sent to market or out of the dipping area after August 31st, unless they shall have been kept isolated; whether he is aware that sheep cannot be kept isolated on the hills of Northumberland, because often there are no fences; whether he is further aware that to dip lambs twice, with only a short period between the dippings, is likely to cause them serious injury; and whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: The value of the dipping would be destroyed if sheep which have been dipped are not kept separate from undipped sheep, and I am afraid therefore that we cannot agree to any modification of the Order in this respect. The difficulty referred to is, however, one that can be met by the mutual co-operation of the flock-masters of the county. There is nothing in the Order which makes it necessary for lambs to be dipped twice within a dangerously short period.

Irish Tenant Right.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland in view of the fact that the tenants' right to protection of his occupation, interest, and improvements in his holding under the Land Act of 1881 exists as a rule, and that cases in which it does exist are exceptional, will he state why the legality of confiscating that property under the Land Act of 1903 has not been tested before now; and what is the reason for leaving unsettled a question which arises in connection with almost every sale under this Act.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool, Exchange): The Act of 1903, as I have several times reminded the hon. Member, deals with voluntary agreements between landlord and tenant only. The legality of confiscating the property of tenants or of any other class in the community does not and cannot arise in connection with any sale under the Act.

MR. GINNELL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that for twenty-five years the law of the land has stood between landlords and tenants for the purpose of protecting the tenant from these so-called voluntary arrangements?

MR. CHERRY: That may be so, but the Act of 1903 especially authorises them.

Dog Licences.

MR. McKILLOP (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland what is the practice in the petty sessions districts of Holywood, Bangor, and Newtownbreda with regard to the stamping of dogs' licences where more than one dog appears in one licence; what is the practice in these districts as to the cancellation of stamps; whether the number of dogs licenced in the above districts corresponded during the present and preceding year with the stamps affixed to the licences issued; whether the petty sessions clerk of the districts duly accounted, and, if so, when did he account; and whether the petty sessions clerk of these districts, in his accounting statement for these years, set forth such particulars as would show the instances in which he did not affix stamps in respect of dogs licenced, and the instances in which he only affixed stamps for one dog on licenses in which more than one dog appeared.

MR. CHERRY: The Registrar of Petty Sessions Clerks informs me that every petty sessions clerk is charged each year with the number of stamps which should have been placed on dog licences, as shown in the Register of Dog Licences. In this register is shown the number of licences issued and the number of dogs in each licence. The number of stamps paid for by the petty sessions clerk of Holywood, Bangor, and Newtownbreda, agrees with the number of licences issued and dogs licensed in the years 1905 and 1906. The petty sessions clerk was absent at Quarter Sessions during some days of the dog licensing period and the person acting for him neglected to affix a second dog stamp in some cases in which two dogs appeared in the same licence. The clerk subsequently returned to the head office dog stamps amounting to £4 12s. 0d., stating that these were on his hands in excess of the proper amount. He had already been charged for these stamps and they were destroyed. All stamps affixed to dog licences should be cancelled on issue, but it is impossible to use them a second time under any circumstances.

Irish Land Purchase—Cappaloughlin Estate, Queen's County.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that agreements to purchase their holdings have been signed by the tenants on the Cappaloughlin, Queen's County, estate of the Endowed Board of Commissioners on terms of twenty-three and twenty-five years' purchase, including one year's rent to November last, turf banks and cutaway bog also included, and that the tenants have since been informed by the agent, Mr. Franks, that they will be required to pay in addition for the turbary rights, in consequence of which a minority of the tenants have withdrawn from the sale;

and will he see that the Estates Commissioners shall inquire into this matter before sanctioning the sale.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): The Estates Commissioners inform me that they are unable to identify the estate referred to as one in which proceedings for sale have been instituted before them. If the estate should come before them, they will make enquiries into the facts alleged in the Question.

MR. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): Will the right hon. Gentleman inform the Estates Commissioners that the terms agreed on are six or seven years' purchase in advance of the average terms under the Act.

MR. BRYCE: I am willing to send to the Commissioners any information which the hon. Member thinks should be conveyed to them.

Longfield Estate, Mallow.

MR. FLYNN (Cork County, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have any information as to the proposed sale of the Longfield estate, Ballyclough, near Mallow; and whether, in view of the fact that the landlord, Mr. R. E. Longfield, retains in his own hands the evicted farm of a man Lehane, the Estates Commissioners will decline to sanction the purchase agreement unless Denis Lehane, son of the evicted tenant, is reinstated on the lands now let to graziers.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that an originating application in respect of the sale of the estate in question was lodged with them on 9th February, 1906. The case of Denis Lehane will be duly considered when the estate is being dealt with. The Commissioners have already approached the landlord's agent on Lehane's behalf, but have been informed that the owner is not willing to sell the holding in which Lehane seeks to be reinstated, seeing that this holding is now incorporated in the owner's farm and demesne.

Mallow Evicted Tenant.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, in reference to the case of Mr. Timothy O'Callaghan, Dromahane, Mallow, who was excluded from the purchase arrangement on the Newman estate, and since evicted from his holding, whether the Estates Commissioners have received a reply to the statement made by Mr. Newman, and which they transmitted to the tenant; and, if so, whether, having regard to all the facts of the case, they are still of opinion that they should have excluded this holding from a large estate merely on the representation of the landlord that he intended to resume possession; and what steps the Commissioners propose to take in the matter.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that the matter referred to in the Question is still under their consideration, and as various questions of law may be involved which may be found to require judicial decision, they are unable to make any statement in regard to it.

MR. FLYNN: Although this Question referred to an individual case, I put it down for oral Answer, because I think the Estate Commissioners in this matter have acted entirely outside the scope of their duty.

Irish Intermediate Board of Education Rules.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, under the Act of 1878 constituting the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland, the Rules of that body must lie upon the Table of this House for forty days before they can come into operation; and whether, seeing that secondary schools commence their school year some time about the middle of August and others in the beginning of September, and require to know some time beforehand what programme has been definitely decided on by the Board and that only a short time remains if the Rules are to lay upon the Table for forty days and come into operation some short time before the commencement of the school year, he will give notice to the

Board that they adopt the Resolutions of this House and publish the revised Rules within a week, or, if not, that they must resign their posts, and that he will appoint a small provisional board to carry on secondary education until inquiry is made and a scheme adopted for placing a primary, secondary, and technical education in the hands of one board appointed by and responsible to the Irish people.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): At the same time may I ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the refusal of the Commissioners of Intermediate Education to submit new rules for the forthcoming examinations, he proposes to ask the House of Commons to rescind the Resolution which was adopted on Monday, May 21st?†

*MR. BRYCE: The fact is as stated in the first part of the Question. Since I answered a Question on this subject last week, the Board of Intermediate Education have informed the Irish Government that they find it impossible to prepare a new set of rules in time to enable them to be approved by the Lord-Lieutenant and lie forty days on the Table of both Houses before August; and that as the gravest inconvenience would be caused to the numerous schools which prepare pupils for the Board's examinations if the programme of those examinations were not announced by the month of August, they conceive that the only course open to them is to continue the previously existing programme, viz., that prepared in 1905 to be in force for 1906. They accordingly propose to submit to the Lord-Lieutenant for his approval the rules for 1906 that they may be in operation for 1907. This is a purely temporary expedient, rendered necessary, in the opinion of the Board, by the shortness of the time available. It is hoped that the rules may be laid before Parliament in the time sufficient to enable the secondary schools to go on with their work of preparation in the usual way. In answer to the Question of the hon. Member for Mid. Armagh I have only to add that it is not the case that the Commissioners have refused to submit new rules.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): Arising out of that reply I should like to ask whether the fact that the right hon. Gentleman has now communicated to the House is the first answer sent in by the Board, or whether it is a fact, as stated in a leading Dublin newspaper, that the Board by a large majority declined to submit to the unanimous decision of the House of Commons, and absolutely refused to alter their rules; also whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the alteration proposed by this House is so simple that there could be no difficulty in carrying it into effect.

*MR. BRYCE: I have stated in my answer to the hon. Gentleman, which I regret has not yet been circulated, as I intended it should have been, that communications were passing on the whole subject between the Government and the Commissioners of Intermediate Education, and I cannot make any statement as to the correspondence. I am bound to say that from the communications that passed, it is quite true that it would be more difficult than it appears at first sight to draw up a new set of rules consistent with the view that the Commissioners entertain, and considering the extreme technicality of the system under which these intermediate examinations are worked. I did not know until I looked into the matter how highly technical it is, and I can understand the difficulty.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL asked whether upon the Board receiving notice that the rules were to be changed in three points of importance, the delay arose not because of the difficulty itself, but purely and simply because the Nationalist representatives wanted to have Irish put on an equality with French and German.

*MR. BRYCE: I do not think the latter part of the hon. Member's Question is well founded. I think there is a real difficulty.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL asked whether, if they agreed to allow the third part of the changes dealing with domestic economy to stand over for another year, the right hon. Gentleman would guarantee that Irish should be placed in the position they desired.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvii., 1072.

*MR. BRYCE: I am sorry to say I cannot guarantee anything. The hon. Member seems to suppose that the rules are made by the Irish Government. They are not.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): May I ask whether it is not a fact that the delay renders it impossible for the Commissioners to submit these amended rules in time to lay them upon the Table of the House for forty days before August, whether the delay of three weeks which has already taken place is not entirely due to the Commissioners themselves; and, secondly, will the right hon. Gentleman state how it is if there is not time to put the amended rules upon the Table there will be time to put last year's rules upon the Table. Why cannot the amended rules be laid as well as last year's rules?

*MR. BRYCE: I am afraid I have failed to explain the matter sufficiently. It is an extremely difficult thing to fit into their general scheme the alterations which have to be made in order to comply with the Resolution of the House. They are of course willing to comply with the directions of this House, but find extreme difficulty in doing so. I think that is quite true, and if hon. Members would look into this matter they would understand that it is so. As regards the first part of the Question I do not think a certain amount of delay could be avoided, considering the position in which the Board was placed by the decision of this House.

MR. DILLON: Is it not a fact that the real difficulty arises from the decision of the Commissioners to defy the decision of this House; and, further, is it not a fact that the decision of the Commissioners was communicated by them to a Dublin newspaper and published three weeks ago?

*MR. BRYCE: I know nothing whatever about a Dublin newspaper. I have not seen it and I do not think it is fair to the Board to say that that is the cause of the delay. The matter is one of very great difficulty, and I can quite understand it.

MR JOHN REDMOND: The right hon. Gentleman has no control over this Board, but the House is entitled to ask whether the Board, after the decision of this House, passed a Resolution defying the action of the House?

*MR. BRYCE: I have already stated that pending the completion of the correspondence that is going on between the Board and the Irish Government I ought to make no further statement on the point.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Is that acting fairly to the House of Commons? It decided by a unanimous vote a certain thing, and I ask whether one of these Irish Boards for which the right hon. Gentleman is not responsible passed a Resolution defying the action of this House.

*MR. BRYCE: That might be stated if they were defying the action of the House, but their communication to the Irish Government is one accepting the decision of the House and accepting the rules.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I am very sorry to have to press this matter. Will the right hon. Gentleman answer—of course if he refuses to do so there is an end of the matter—did the Board, after an unanimous decision of this House, pass a Resolution declining to act upon the decision come to by the House?

*MR. BRYCE: I can make no further statement on the matter. There has been correspondence between the Board and the Irish Government, but I am not now in a position to make any further statement.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: Will the right hon. Gentleman publish the minutes of the last meeting of the Board?

*MR. BRYCE: No, Sir.

Irish Tenant's Occupation Interest.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that the accounts of some public salesmen in Ireland show the value of the tenant's occupation interest, including improvements, in an agricultural holding to frequently equal and occasionally exceed the value of the landlord's interest in the holding; and will he ascertain what has been the average price of this tenant's property in normal cases in each county during the last ten years, in order to find a standard for the guidance of the Estates Commissioners and their inspectors.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Estate Commissioners that they have no information as to the matters of fact alleged in the first part of the Question, and have no means of obtaining the particulars asked for in the concluding inquiry.

MR. GINNELL: Will the right hon. Gentleman endeavour to obtain the information?

MR. BRYCE: I am afraid I have no means of doing so. I have no powers over the Estates Commissioners to compel them to give it even if they have it.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland do all or any of the inspectors on behalf of the Estates Commissioners set forth in their reports in respect of each holding the value of the tenant's occupation, interest and improvement; is this value deducted from the gross value of the holding to find the value of the landlord's interest which is the only object of the sale; is the price calculated upon that interest exclusively; if not, how is the promise kept that the form of report would be adequate for this purpose; and how are the Treasury and the tenant protected from paying for that which is already the tenant's own property.

MR. BRYCE: I beg to refer the hon. and learned Member to the instructions to inspectors which have been laid on the Table of the House. These instructions, and the form of report attached to them, set forth the matters on which the inspectors are required to report. These include the tenant's improvements as admitted, the value thereof, and the estimated gross and net fair rent. I am informed that no report is required as to the value of the tenant's occupation interest, and no deduction from the gross rent is made in respect of such interest. For further elucidation of the matter, so far as it is one of fact and not of argument, I may refer the hon. Member to the Answers given to his Questions of May 14th and 23rd.†

MR. GINNELL: The right hon. Gentleman has not answered my Question whether the tenant pays for his occupation interest in the price of the land.

MR. BRYCE: If the hon. Member will refer to the Answer to his previous Question, he will find my reply to this point. I can add nothing more.

Headfort Evicted Tenants.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have been able to effect any settlement of the claims of Denis Healy and Jeremiah Healy, of Headfort, county Kerry, as evicted tenants.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that the Report of their inspector on the McCartie Estate, upon which the persons named seek reinstatement, will come before them for ruling at an early date.

Irish Teachers' Capitation Grants.

MR. MURPHY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can now make a statement as to expediting payments of capitation grants to teachers; if not, what is the cause of the delay; and if it is the case that the reform required in the matter of payment of this money could be carried out with very little difficulty and expense.

MR. BRYCE: The Commissioners of National Education have made arrangements, with the sanction of the Treasury, to pay the annual residual capitation grant to the teachers in the month of April in future, that is to say, immediately after the expiration of the financial year to which the grant relates. The payment of the grant in respect of services rendered by the teachers in the first three months of this year is to be made forthwith.

Irish Land Commission.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether Mr. Wilkinson, who was appointed in December, 1905, to an office in the Collection Department of the Irish Land Commission at a salary of £300 per annum, was an experienced land clerk, possessing skilled practical knowledge of Irish estate accounts; and, if not, what are his special qualifications for the post.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvii., 197–200, 1291.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Land Commission that the Answer to this Question is in the affirmative.

Irish Land Clerks.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many Irish land clerks have been employed by the Congested Districts Board since the passing of the Land Act of 1903; and how many clerks and assistants other than land clerks have been employed by the Board in connection with the purchase and management of estates.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed that since the passing of the Land Act of 1903, the Congested Districts Board have engaged one land clerk, who was in the employment of the vendor of an estate which they had purchased. They have also engaged eight other clerks to assist their land inspectors. Two of these have since resigned. Fifteen other temporary clerks have been appointed for estates business in the Dublin Office. The Board have called up for competitive examination every applicant for a temporary clerkship in their Dublin Office, and with one exception all the posts of clerk to land inspectors were filled by competitive examination of persons who had applied for employment.

MR. SLOAN: Is it not the fact that during the debate on the Act of 1902 these land clerks were promised a preference for appointments, provided they made themselves fully qualified, and has not that pledge been completely ignored?

MR. BRYCE: I do not know if that is so. I will look into the matter if the hon. Member will indicate when the pledge was given.

MR. SLOAN: It was given in debate. There was a distinct promise that these land clerks should be given employment, and yet they are now being made to stand aside for the sake of other people.

Ballina Evicted Tenant.

MR. HALPIN (Clare, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Michael Maloney, of Ballina, Labashuda, county Clare, a tenant on the estate of the Hon. C. W. White, is not yet reinstated in his farm, although it was inspected in April, 1905; whether, seeing that the greater part of the estate is now sold to the tenants, he will inquire what is the cause of the delay in reinstating Mr. Maloney; and at what approximate date will the reinstatement take place.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners have made an offer to the land judge for the purchase of the estate in question, but it has not yet been decided whether the offer will be accepted. The Commissioners are considering whether it may be possible to bring about the restoration of Michael Maloney.

Dunmanway Estate—Coolsnagtig Evicted Tenant.

MR. EDWARD BARRY (Cork County, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the negotiations for the sale of the estate of Mr. John Atkins, Dunmanway, are still in progress; whether he is aware that James Murphy, an evicted tenant at Coolsnagtig, is claiming reinstatement in the farm from which he was evicted; and, if so, will the Estates Commissioners refuse to declare the Atkins property an estate unless Murphy be included among the purchasing tenants.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that no proceedings for the sale of the estate in question have yet come before them, and they have no knowledge of any negotiations for sale which may be proceeding. The Commissioners have, however, referred the case of James Murphy to one of their inspectors with a view to effecting a settlement.

Irish Land Commission Staff.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many land clerks have been added to the staffs of the Irish Land

Commission since the passing of the Land Act of 1903, and how many of them are second divisional clerks, assistant clerks, third class Land Commission clerks, abstractors, and solicitors' clerks, respectively; and will steps be taken to give effect to the promise of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover; and to see that a fair proportion of Irish land clerks who have a special knowledge of the Irish land system will not be overlooked in favour of those less qualified.

MR. BRYCE: The Land Commission inform me that two clerks who had previously had considerable experience in land agents' offices have been appointed to the staff of the department since the passing of the Irish Land Act, 1903. One of these gentlemen holds the position of estate management clerk in the Estates Commissioners' office, and the other is assistant to the clerk in charge of the department for the collection of interest in lieu of rent. Neither of these officers belongs to any of the grades of clerks mentioned in the question. The applications of all persons who seek employment in the office of the Land Commission are carefully considered as vacancies arise.

MR. DELANY: Is it right that these land clerks should be recruited from rent offices in Ireland?

MR. BRYCE said he had given what Answer the information in his possession enabled him to give, but he would look further into the matter if desired.

Bandon Estate Evicted Tenants.

MR. EDWARD BARRY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that the Bandon estate was sold subject to the understanding that evicted tenants on the estate, whether holding directly from the head landlord or middleman, were to be reinstated in their old farms, an inspector has yet visited the farm at Knockmeady, formerly held by Cornelius O'Donoghue; and, if so, has any decision been arrived at regarding the reinstatement of the evicted tenant.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that the applications which have been received from evicted tenants on this estate, including that of Cornelius O'Donoghue, have been referred to one of their inspectors for enquiry and report.

Dunmanway Cottage Scheme.

MR. SHEEHAN (Cork County, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in the recent scheme of cottages promulgated by the Dunmanway Rural District Council, and for which the Provisional Order has now become absolute, the representation of Michael Shea for a cottage and plot of land on the farm formerly occupied by Jeremiah Hallihan, and now held by a man named Cunnell, was amongst those recommended by the Local Government Board inspector; that this applicant proved his claim to be a *bona fide* and a proper one before the Local Government Board inquiry; and that a majority of the district council since passed a Resolution excluding Shea's application from the scheme; and whether, seeing that Shee's application has been included in the Provisional Order, will the Local Government Board insist that he shall get his cottage and plot of land.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed that the fact is as stated in the first part of the Question. The cottage referred to was authorised by an Order of the Local Government Board in August, 1904. On May 15th, 1906, the rural district council unanimously decided to abandon the proposal to erect this particular cottage, upon the ground that Shea, the original applicant, had gone to America and that the present applicant belongs to the Macroom Union. The Local Government Board do not propose to interfere with the action of the council in the matter.

Bevan Estate, County Limerick.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Bevan estate, situate near Bruff, in the county of Limerick, has come before the Estates Commissioners for sale to the tenants; and whether Messrs. James Butler and James Mulcahy, both evicted tenants on the estate, shall be considered in the purchase negotiations with a view to their reinstatement; or whether the Estates Commissioners will send one of their inspectors to interview the occupant of the holdings, John Van Bevan, to ascertain if he be willing to resign the lands in favour of the evicted tenants Butler and Mulcahy.

Mr. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that no proceedings for the sale of the estate referred to have yet been instituted before them. The Commissioners will, however, have inquiry made into the cases of the two evicted tenants named, both of whom have lodged applications for reinstatement.

Major McBride.

Mr. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it was with the cognisance and permission of the police authorities that Major McBride was present in Dublin on June 1st.

Mr. BRYCE: I am not aware of any reason why the permission of the police should be necessary to enable Mr. McBride to visit Dublin.

Mr. LONSDALE: Is the right Gentleman aware that Major McBride fought on the side of our enemies in the Boer War and was therefore guilty of high treason?

Mr. BRYCE: I have no information on that point.

Rossmore Evicted Tenants.

Mr. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Simon Morrissey, who was in occupation of the farms of James Murphy and Laurence O'Connell, evicted tenants on the Shelton estate at Rossmore, in the county of Limerick, left the country about two years ago, and that the farms are since derelict; and whether, under these circumstances, the Estates Commissioners will approach the landlord immediately with a view to their reinstatement.

Mr. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received applications for reinstatement from the persons named, and that they will have the cases duly inquired into by one of their inspectors with a view to effecting a settlement.

Mr. O'SHAUGHNESSY: When will the Inspector make the inquiries?

Mr. BRYCE: I am afraid it is impossible to fix a time, as there is a good deal of work on hand.

Nantenan Evicted Tenant.

Mr. O'SHAUGHNESSY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mrs. Ellen Sheehy, evicted tenant, of Nantenan, in the county of Limerick, has arranged with her landlord to purchase her holding, and that the tenants on the estate have signed agreements to purchase; under these circumstances, will he ask the Estates Commissioners to give her a grant for the purpose of rebuilding the dwelling-house on the evicted farm, which is in ruins, and for stocking and working the land.

Mr. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that, at the request of the vendor, they have intimated the sum they are prepared to advance to Mrs. Sheehy for the purchase of her former holding. The Commissioners are not aware whether an agreement between Mrs. Sheehy and the landlord has yet been arrived at, but if Mrs. Sheehy should become the purchaser of the holding they will consider the question of making her a grant.

Raheen Evicted Tenants.

Mr. O'SHAUGHNESSY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say whether, having regard to the fact that John Sheehy, William Ryan and Owen Sheehy, of Raheen and Ballinaguile Croagh, in the County of Limerick, who were evicted from their holdings in the years 1884 and 1887, are still out of possession, and that the farms are in the possession of the landlord, Colonel R. Conway, an absentee landlord, he will take steps to see that the Estates Commissioners approach him with a view to bringing about a settlement.

Mr. BRYCE: I have already informed the hon. Member that the Estates Commissioners have received applications for reinstatement from the three persons named, and that the cases will be inquired into by an inspector. Until the inspector's report has been received and considered, the Commissioners are unable to decide what action they may take in these cases. I can assure the hon. Member that the Estates Commissioners are doing their best to deal with all these cases.

Knight of Glin's Estate, Limerick.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, having regard to the fact that there is a number of evicted tenants on the Knight of Glin's estate, in the county of Limerick, who have been out of their holdings for years, he will direct the Estates Commissioners to enter into negotiations with the landlord to bring about their reinstatement.

MR. BRYCE: I beg to refer to my reply to the hon. Member's Question of Wednesday last.† The Estates Commissioners are unable to say what action they may take until they have received and considered their inspector's report.

County Limerick Evicted Tenant.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say how many applications for reinstatement from evicted tenants in the county of Limerick the Estates Commissioners have received; and what action they have taken in regard to them.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Estates Commissioners that applications have been received from 309 persons seeking reinstatement as evicted tenants in County Limerick. In eighteen cases the applicants did not come within the class of persons mentioned in Section 2 of the Act of 1903. In twenty-six cases the applicants have been reinstated, and the remaining cases will be inquired into by the inspector who has been allocated to the district.

Irish Lord Chancellor's Salary.

MR. FULLERTON (Cumberland, Egremont): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in order to provide additional funds for the Irish Labourers Act, he will reduce the salary of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland to £5,000, the amount received as salary in that capacity by the Lord Chancellor of England.

MR. BRYCE: The Answer is in the negative.

MR. FULLERTON: Why? Are the duties more onerous in the case of the Irish Lord Chancellor than in the case of the Lord High Chancellor of England?

MR. BRYCE: That is a Question of which notice ought to be given.

Emigration from Ireland.

MR. DOLAN (Leitrim, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the number of emigrants from Ireland during the past two months shows an increase over the corresponding figures for last year; and to what cause does he attribute the increase.

MR. BRYCE: It is the case that the number of emigrants from Ireland during the past two months shows an increase over the number for the corresponding period of last year, but I have no information which would enable me to form a definite and positive opinion as to the cause of this increase. There are many causes, some of them operative in America and others here, which influence fluctuations in the number of emigrants.

Labourers Acts Loans—Rates of Interest in the North Dublin District.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the rate of interest charged to the North Dublin Rural District on loans repayable in fifty years, under the Labourers Acts, is 4¼ per cent., with a sinking fund of 2 per cent., making in all an annual payment of 6¼ per cent.; whether he will give a Return showing the rates of interest and repayment of principal prevalent in all the rural districts of Ireland in respect of labourers; and whether, in view of the rates prevalent in the North Dublin district, and other districts, he will consider the necessity of affording some relief from so heavy a burden.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed that a statement to the effect mentioned in the first part of the Question was made at a recent meeting of the North Dublin

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† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 938–9.

Rural District Council. The fact, however, is that the present annuity upon a loan of £100 repayable in fifty years is £4 17s. 2d. and not £6 5s. 0d., as stated. Since the passing of the original Labourers Act of 1883, loans have been granted from time to time at varying rates of interest having regard to the Treasury rates in force for the time being. The rate of the annuity for a fifty-year loan has, during that period, varied from £4 1s. 6d. to £4 17s. 2d., this rate being dependent on the rate of interest charged, which has varied from 3¼ to 4¼ per cent. A detailed Return such as is suggested would, I am informed, entail a considerable amount of labour without any corresponding advantage. The question of affording relief is one for the Treasury and had better be addressed to a Minister representing that department.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): Cannot the right hon. Gentleman promise a Return which will show in general outline the rates of interest for sinking fund of the whole period of the working of the Labourers Acts? We want a general summary—not a detailed Return.

MR. BRYCE: I will see if that can be done. Perhaps the hon. Member will draw up the form of Return he desires.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Can the right hon. Gentleman say why, for a loan of £20,000 sanctioned by the Board of Works last December, the interest charged was at the rate of £4 5s. per cent. whereas under the Bill of the right hon. Gentleman the charge should be £2 15s. per cent.

MR. BRYCE: I must ask for notice of that Question.

Irish Trade Statistics.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has considered the necessity for adopting means for collecting statistics regarding Ireland's trade with England and foreign countries; and whether, if this cannot be done under the law as it stands, he will introduce a Bill dealing with the matter.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I have already informed the hon. Member in reply to a previous Question that there is no objection to publishing an annual Return if desired giving details of the Import and Export trade of Ireland carried on directly with Foreign Countries and British Possessions and further that the Irish Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction are about to publish certain information as to the cross-channel trade which they have procured through harbour and port authorities. The Board of Trade and Customs Department have no power to require details of the value of the trade of Ireland which is carried on with or through Great Britain, and in view of the grave interference with trade, and of the expense which would be caused by the collection of such statistics, I am not prepared to introduce a Bill for the purpose.

MR. FLYNN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that some twenty years ago the authorities at the Irish customs ports collected these statistics and gave returns of imports and exports?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I will inquire.

Alleged Disorders in the Church of England.

MR. FULLERTON: I beg to ask the Prime Minister what day the Report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into alleged disorders in the Church of England may be expected.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): I have nothing to add to the answer which I gave to my hon. friend the Member for the East Toxteth Division of Liverpool on May 28th.†

MR. FULLERTON: What is the cause of the delay? Cannot the right hon. Gentleman press for the report?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The Government have no control over the Commission. I can only convey to the House what the expectations of the Commission are.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 97.

The Unemployed Bill.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he can now say when the promised Bill for amending the Unemployed Workmen Act will be introduced; and, in any case, whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce the Bill in such time as will permit of its passage into law before the adjournment of the House.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I answered this Question yesterday. I am afraid I can say nothing definite at present. I do not think it is at all likely that the Bill will be introduced in time for passage through all its stages before the summer adjournment.

MR. PICKERSGILL: Does not the right hon. Gentleman recognise the extreme importance of giving local authorities time to make suitable arrangements?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Yes, I am quite aware of that, but then our time is limited.

MR. KEIR HARDIE asked if the Bill on passing would become immediately operative.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: That will be considered.

Colonial Vote.

MR. A. E. W. MASON (Coventry): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the necessity of securing in South Africa wider opportunities for British settlers, he will grant an early day for the further discussion of the Colonial Vote.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: There are other grounds besides these mentioned by my hon. friend. We will do our best to find a day, though I fear it cannot be an early day.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER (Wiltshire, Chippenham): Cannot the right hon. Gentleman give us a more encouraging assurance that the Government will take action than we have received from the Under-Secretary?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: That hardly arises out of the Question on the Paper.

Scottish Estimates.

MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, seeing that there are thirteen Motions on the Paper challenging Votes in the Scottish Estimates, that not a single Vote has yet been passed, that only two and a half hours on Thursday, June 14th, were devoted to discussion on these estimates, and that there are several matters of importance to Scotland, which can only receive attention during the discussion on the Estimates, he will grant another day for Scottish business.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am well aware that Scotland has had a scanty allowance of time, but I am afraid I cannot extend the promise I gave the other day.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW, &c.

Ordered, That the Standing Committee on Law have leave to sit To-morrow during the sitting of the House for the consideration of the Workmen's Compensation Bill.—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*)

DOGS BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee on Trade, &c., with Amendments.

Ordered, That the Report do lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 207.]

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee be printed. [No. 207.]

Ordered, That the Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), be taken into consideration To-morrow, and be printed. [Bill 264.]

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect to the Fatal Accidents and Sudden Deaths Inquiry

(Scotland) Bill :—Mr. M'Kinnon Wood; and had appointed in substitution, Mr. Cleland.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

Fifth Report brought up, and read; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

DUBLIN POLICE BILL.

Ordered, That the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills do examine the Dublin Police Bill with respect to compliance with the Standing Orders relative to Private Bills.—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

NEW BILL.

STRANGERS IN BLOOD INTERPRETATION BILL.

"To interpret the meaning of the term stranger in blood under the Legacy and Succession Duty Acts," presented by Sir William Bull; to be read a second time upon Monday, July 9th, and to be printed. [Bill 265.]

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 3 :—

*MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington) moved to leave out the word "if" from the beginning of sub-section (1), with the object of subsequently moving other Amendments with a view to making the granting of facilities obligatory. The hon. Member suggested that they might have some statement from the right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Education with regard to the question as to whether religious teaching in the schools would or would not be given during school hours. Anyone who had a full knowledge of the question knew very well that a large percentage of the children would not receive any religious instruction unless such instruction was given during school hours. One could imagine an English village school with the children inside, listening to those playing outside. He hoped and trusted in the interests of the children of the country, that the right hon. Gentleman would consider the possibility of making some statement upon the question that day, because it was of great importance in connection with the Amendment before them. Some time ago they had a division with regard to secular education, and he believed there were in one lobby sixty-two Members. That did not represent the feeling of the House and the country upon the question, but at the same time it showed that there was a deep feeling among the people in favour of religious education being given during school hours. If it was not obligatory for children to go to school to receive religious instruction there was no doubt at least one-third of them would receive no moral teaching in the schools at all. There was no Member of the House who could say that a mandate was given to the Liberal Party to do away with religious instruction during school hours, and he thought there were few hon. Members who would not prefer religious instruction in school hours. The President of the Board of Education had said that he intended the clause to be not a sham but a reality, and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster had supported that view. It was desirable that they should have some definition in the Bill with regard to what "extended facilities," and "ordinary facilities" meant. The man in the street believed that every ordinary school would have these facilities, but members of the Committee knew that there was no foundation for such a statement. The local authority need not take over a school at all, and there was no provision for compelling local authorities to make the granting of facilities a condition of the arrangement. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to say whether this teaching would be given in school hours and that the clause would be made mandatory.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 24, to leave out the word 'if.'"—(*Mr. Pike Pease.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'if' stand part of the clause."

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.) said the hon. Member had referred to Clause 6, which provided that "the parent of a child attending a public elementary school shall not be under any obligation to cause the child to attend at the schoolhouse, except during the times allotted in the time-table exclusively to secular instruction." The hon. Member desired to know whether the Government contemplated any alteration of the provisions of that clause. All he could say was that upon that point the Government were perfectly willing when they came to Clause 6 that the question should be fairly and fully considered in such a way as to secure, if possible, that the children should be required to attend. That was not a view that met with special favour in his mind, because he had always been of opinion that, if they wished to make the conscience clause really effective, they ought to make it easy for the child as well as for the parent to claim exemption. For that reason he favoured the clause in the form in which it now appeared. But there was a great deal of feeling the other way, and when the Committee came to that clause the fullest opportunity would be afforded for considering the question—it might be upon a Government Amendment, although as to that he had not yet come to any definite conclusion; but he thought that in all probability the Committee would have an opportunity of considering the question on a Government Amendment. At all events, the whole question would be open for consideration and there would be no attempt whatsoever to take the clause as it at present stood as representing the view of the Government upon this important point. With regard to the amendment proposed by the hon. Gentleman, he did not think the clause as it at present stood was in any way open to any other objection than that there was no obligation upon the local authority to take a school at all. That was the gap of which so much had been heard. That gap was always in the mind of the Government; they knew perfectly well it was there, and he thought it would be found that in his speeches he had not used language inconsistent with that statement. The Government always contemplated that there was no obligation whatever on the local authority to take over a school, but they always contemplated that the schools would be willing to come over, and that the authorities would be desirous to take them; and that, when that was done, these facilities should be made a compulsory condition of their being taken over. They did not intend that a local authority should refuse to take a school because if it did it would have to grant facilities. That was not the intention of the Government, nor was it the effect of the clause; but by either a new clause or a new sub-section he would make it perfectly plain that the local authority, if it did take over a school, must grant these facilities, and also, possibly, say how it was to proceed to take it over. He wanted to make it perfectly clear, however, that the Government could not, and did not, propose to take away from the local authority the responsibility of providing for its own school requirements, and that they could not make it compulsory on the local authority to take over a school simply because one was there. It would be ridiculous to impose on the local authority the obligation of making suitable provision if they did not leave them free to say what suitable provision was. Subject to these considerations he hoped a way had been found to bridge over the gap. The Amendment could not be accepted.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said that the statement just made by the right hon. Gentleman was a most important one. But he wished to begin his remarks by thanking the right hon. Gentleman for the concession he had made, rather, as he gathered, against his own natural inclination, to the very strong feeling which undoubtedly existed both in and out of the House. He did not regard as so satisfactory the statement of the right hon. Gentleman on the difficult problem of how to ensure that there should be these religious facilities given in schools, if they left, as the Government now desired to leave, a discretion to the local authority. He was not sure that the statement now made by the right hon. Gentleman squared with, he would not say his previous speeches, but the impression which those speeches had left on the minds of the Committee. He certainly was under the impression that, when the right hon. Gentleman made the promise that he would, on the Report stage, bring forward an Amendment to bridge over the gap between Clause 1 and Clause 3, it carried with it an obligation on the local education authority to take over those schools which consisted of buildings fit for educational purposes. There was a common agreement on both sides of the Committee that it would be most unjust to compel the local authority to take over schools which were so seriously defective that, obviously, the proper course was to build a new school; but he thought the Government agreed with them in thinking that, subject to that exceptional qualification, there was to be an obligation on the local authority to take over voluntary schools. Now he understood the Government had withdrawn from that. [MINISTERIAL cries of "No."] He looked that morning at the imperfect report, as all reports of their proceedings in Committee were imperfect, in *The Times* of what the right hon. Gentleman said last night, and he certainly gathered, both from the speech which he had just made and from the words that fell from him last night, that he did not propose to require local authorities to take over schools in all cases, not even in those, necessarily, where the school was fit for educational purposes. He hoped that before they left this Amendment the right hon. Gentleman would clear up for ever certain ambiguities which seemed to attach to the utterances of the Government on the subject and the doubts which were very widely spread on both sides of the House. He did not think the Government had made it quite clear, so far as this gap was concerned, exactly what it was they meant to require the local authority to do. But there was another gap the true character and importance of which he did not think the right hon. Gentleman appreciated. Supposing the trustees of a school said they would rather not enter into any arrangements with the local authority, then, under Clause 8, the fate of that school was handed over to the Commission of Three, who had power to impose conditions of transfer upon the voluntary school, but not to impose conditions of reception or acquisition on the part of the local authority. That was a separate and quite distinct gap in the scheme of the Government, for this one-sided imposition of terms had no corresponding coercive effect on the other party to the transaction.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that he was afraid that the right hon. Gentleman was getting very wide of the question before the Committee. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to be opening up the whole question of the Bill and not the particular Amendment before the Committee.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he quite agreed with the Chairman's ruling. He only wanted to show that he thought the right hon. Gentleman had withdrawn from the pledges he had given to the Committee.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he wanted the right hon. Gentleman to confine his observations as far as possible to the facilities given under Clause 3.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he would confine his observations to the religious side of the question. There were two points in which the mandatory character of religious facilities was really not given by anything which the Government had promised either upon this or any other clause.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said that the discussion had been from the start entirely out of order. The Amendment, so far as he could understand it—and it was not easy to grasp its bearing—was intended to make the granting of facilities for religious instruction mandatory in all cases where a school was taken over by the local authority. But if a school were taken over under Clause 2, on the terms of the trustees, the granting of facilities under Clause 3 was mandatory as the clause stood. Where the hon. Member seemed to have gone astray both in his Amendment and in his speech, was that he did not recognise that this was a matter which came back to Clause 2. The question of whether a school could be taken over had to be settled under Clause 2; but supposing the question was settled under that clause, then Clause 3 became mandatory. If, under Clause 2, the school was taken over, the Board must give the facilities. He was surprised that the subtle intellect of the noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone could not realise that point, but there was no doubt that the first gap was in Section 2. He quite agreed in the importance attached by the Leader of the Opposition to the terms of the Amendment of the Government which was to be put upon the Paper in regard to Clause 2, but he did not think that it would be orderly or profitable to discuss the question now. He hoped and had no doubt that that Amendment would be put upon the Paper in good time for them to consider and discuss it. The real point they were now discussing was whether this proposed Amendment increased the mandatory or the compulsory force of Clause 3. He could not see that it did, and he thought that hon. Members should address themselves to Clauses 6 and 8 in regard to this question, because even if the Amendment were carried, the clause would have no more effect than it had at present.

*MR. BUTCHER (Cambridge University) said he found himself unable to agree with the hon. Member for East Mayo. There were two "ifs" which stood between the owners and the acquisition of these special facilities. One was "if" the school had been transferred—they had nothing to say about that question now, because they had dealt with it under Clause 2—but there was another "if," namely, "if" the granting of these facilities had been made a condition of the transfer, either under an arrangement between the owners and the local authority under Clause 2 or under a scheme made by the Commission of Three under Clause 8. He ventured —although he was not a lawyer—to say that without the assent of the local authority these facilities could not be made a condition of the transfer. Hence, unless the Government accepted the proposed Amendment of his hon. friend the Member for Darlington, they had no assurance whatever that the facilities would ever become a condition of the transfer. The Minister for Education last night said that there were two gaps; the second gap which he discovered being that if the owners or trustees did not make facilities a condition of transfer there might very truly be a difficulty. The right hon. Gentleman observed that this was a somewhat small gap, for the Government assumed that they could safely rely upon owners and trustees to make the condition part of the bargain. But a further gap which the right hon. Gentleman did not notice was far more important and it was with this they were now concerned. The local authority might make it a condition of the transfer that these facilities should not be granted. That was what they had to guard against. In either case, whether under Clause 2 or Clause 8, the local authority had the final word in deciding the question. In one of his speeches last night, the Minister for Education had assumed that in every case where the transfer took place facilities would be given. He only appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to give effect to that assumption. They had not heard from Ministers what would happen if an authority objected to the facilities being given. Ministers had assumed that they would be given. Why not, therefore, say in the Bill that they should be given? It might be said that this would show an undue distrust of local authorities. He did not think so. They could not forget that there had been speeches made recently, only a few in the House but a good many outside, revealing a hardness and want of sympathy which inspired a certain distrust, he would not say of local authorities as a whole, but of certain individuals who, flushed with the pride of political victory, were prepared to drive hard bargains, even in regard to matters of conscience. He would appeal to the Minister for Education to allow this matter of facilities once and for all to be lifted above the region of wrangling and placed outside local politics. Moreover, what was meant by "facilities." It was all obscure and vague. Were they to be given during the time in which the local authority had the control of the school? He imagined that that was so, because otherwise the owners could get quite as much without claiming the facilities at all out of school hours. Again, was the Cowper-Temple instruction to be given concurrently with the special facilities and at the same hour? That is to say, were those who did not desire want the special facilities to get the Cowper-Temple instruction as an alternative. A third point was whether denominational teaching might be given every day of the week provided no child received it more than twice a week? The question of facilities had been solved elsewhere, although he had a certain hesitation in referring to the subject, because the Minister for Education had deprecated any allusion to the experience of other countries. The Secretary for India, however, not very long ago said that—

> "Serious persons must reflect that whilst we are wrangling over unnecessary issues, our German and other rivals are straining every nerve to have real education."

Well, what happened in Germany? In Germany there was a dual system; on the one hand there were a certain number of mixed schools containing children of different denominations. The parents of these children had not a conditional but an assured right to the religious instruction they desired being given in school hours and by competent teachers. But the mixed system was quite exceptional. The ordinary system, however, was that of strictly denominational schools, where children were educated in their own creed. This prevailed wherever there was an adequate number of children of one denomination and was almost universal. Some years ago Liberal feeling in Germany was rather against the denominational system, but experience had shown that the denominational were so superior to the mixed schools that he would mention opinion was now in favour of the denominational schools. The only other country was Ireland. He could not help being impressed with the marked contrast between the religious toleration in matters of education that obtained in Ireland and the singular intolerance that existed in England. Whatever might be the faults of Ireland in other ways, in her educational system she had managed to find a concordat. She, too, had a two-fold method answering to Clauses 3 and 4 of this Bill. In all the "vested" schools, which corresponded roughly to the "provided" schools in England, a right of entry was allowed. It was not a matter of bargaining; and the religious instruction so given was that which was approved of by the parents or guardians. The teachers who gave it might be either the school teacher or someone, cleric or layman, brought in from outside. And in Ireland precisely the same thing occurred as in Germany; the denominational schools vastly preponderated. The theory in Ireland was that of combined secular and separate religious instruction; but in practice the denominational system better satisfied the consciences of the people. There were 8,500 national schools in Ireland and only 1,829 of these were mixed schools. After all, "facilities" were only a second best expedient. That was the first lesson to be drawn from the experience of other countries. They were useful as a subsidiary arrangement to meet practical difficulties or to satisfy theoretical grievances, but they were not in themselves a security for a sound religious education. Secondly, the general intrusion of amateurs was dangerous to the discipline of schools. Thirdly, in so far as mixed schools were carried on with any success, it was by the employment of the school teachers in the school hours, and, moreover, by opening up the right to all denominations alike. His inference, therefore, was that Clause 3 was useful as an adjunct and supplement to Clause 4, but that Clause 4 ought to be largely and generously expanded.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Mr. Robson, South Shields) said the Amendment made a small but very important change in the clause. As the clause now stood the arrangement between the local authority and the trustees of voluntary schools was to be a voluntary arrangement. The Amendment proposed to put into that voluntary arrangement a compulsory term. That was not, in his opinion, the most convenient mode of conducting or concluding a voluntary negotiation. At present the trustees might or might not demand facilities for special privileges; the Amendment proposed that they should be compelled to do so. The short answer to the hon. Member was that the Amendment proposed to incorporate a compulsory term into a voluntary negotiation: that was not the most desirable way of conducting a voluntary negotiation, and they had no need to travel to foreign countries to discover that.

Mr. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.) said he desired to say one word upon the effect of Clause 3 as it would be if amended on the lines proposed by his hon. friend. The hon. Member for Cambridge University had said that he regarded Clause 3 as an important addition and complement to Clause 4, but really in the practical application of this Act Clauses 3 and 4 dealt with totally different classes of schools. Clause 3 was the one slight hope which was left to the rural schools of the country. Clause 4 could not apply in its present form to the rural schools. It was Clause 3 which would govern the rural school system. The hon. Member for East Mayo did not believe the Amendment was necessary, because the trustees under Clause 2 and subsequent clauses would have the power to make the granting of these facilities a compulsory part of the transfer. That, he thought, was not so. The Solicitor General had just said that this arrangement was to be voluntary, but the hon. and learned Gentleman did not even know his own Bill, because in Clause 2 the Government made the part relating to the transfer compulsory. When they were discussing Clause 2 they sought to add a sub-section to sub-section (a) making not only maintenance but the granting of facilities a compulsory result of the transfer. That Amendment was resisted successfully, hon. Gentlemen opposite point to Clause 3 as the means for securing the desirod result. It was therefore only to Clause 3 that they had to look for the provision of these religious facilities in the rural schools. His hon. friend had asked, and he hoped that the question would be answered, as it was very important that the Committee should be given an idea of the way in which these facilities were to be granted, because if they were not to be made mandatory it would be a cause of very great irritation and difficulty in the country districts. It was for that reason that the Opposition the other day pressed on the Government, with ultimate success, the contention that this House should accept, and not transfer to the local authority, the responsibility of deciding whether or not those religious facilities should be granted. He could well conceive a local education authority, moved, as they undoubtedly would be, by the arguments which had been frequently expressed in this House, being led in some cases to vary their action. But if this clause were made mandatory, and the Amendment of the Government took the form which they most certainly thought it would take and which the report of the debates of the time justified them in believing was then intended, namely, of imposing upon the local authority the obligation of granting these facilities provided the schools were fit and efficient for educational purposes, then the whole of the religious controversy would be removed from the local area. Otherwise the local authority would not be able to avoid discussing these controversial questions. If his hon. friend's Amendment were adopted, they would lay down what was to be the principle to guide the local authorities in future. That the granting of these facilities should be an obligatory part of the bargain was the least measure of justice that could be granted. He had hoped the Minister for Education would have told them something about the scheme of these facilities, as to which the Committee were in ignorance. No doubt the Government had some definite idea as to a scheme which, if the right hon. Gentle man would take them into his confidence, would help the Committee in discussing the clause. He hoped all those who believed that, in common justice, when a voluntary school was transferred it should be an obligation that religious facilities should be granted would not be led away by any doubt as to the meaning of Clause 2 or the effect of Clause 3 in its present form, but would see that the scheme could be carried out in no other way than by adopting the Amendment of his hon. friend, or something very much like it. This was the least measure of justice that could be given to those schools which had done such invaluable work for the children of the country, which work they were anxious to continue, only asking that they should be treated with fairness.

Mr. BIRRELL said they could not—as he thought the hon. Member for East Mayo quite accurately pointed out—consider any provisions that might be hereafter proposed for bridging over the gap of Clause 2. It could not be done on Clause 3. There was a gap, and it was the intention of the Government that there should be that gap. But he had promised to introduce, at the termination of the Committee stage on Clause 4, words which very possibly would alter the situation very much, because the four-fifths schools might be fully provided for by and under that clause, and the gap in that case filled up. It would then remain to consider the filling up of the gap generally; but it would be out of order to attempt to do it on this clause. The Government did not want to make it absolutely compulsory that, in the case of every school that was taken over under Clause 3, the granting of these denominational facilities should be made a condition, because it would be found in the case of a good many of those schools, when their trusts came to be examined, that they ought not to have a denominational character at all. The Amendment was quite unnecessary, unless it were considered rather in the way in which the right hon. Gentleman who had just sat down construed it as making it obligatory upon the local authority——

Mr. WALTER LONG said that what he desired to make clear was that where the transfer of a voluntary school took place, the granting of religious facilities should be as obligatory as was the burden of expenditure which was made.

Mr. BIRRELL said this seemed to him to be a very narrow point. He quite agreed, and he had already said so, that it was certainly not intended that when a local authority wanted to take over a school they should make it a condition that, if the facilities in question were insisted on, they would not take over the school. That was not the intention of the clause, and he could not conceive that it was the effect of the clause as it stood. But he was perfectly ready to consider that question and to make it perfectly plain that if the local authority wanted to take the school, and if the trustees wanted to have facilities, then facilities there should be.

Lord R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said there seemed to be some misapprehension on this point. The question was this: supposing there was a local education authority that did not want on conscientious grounds to grant special facilities under Clause 3, it could avoid the obligations which the right hon. Gentleman thought rested upon it by refusing to take over the school. They were discussing the point under some disadvantage, because they did not quite know what the right hon. Gentleman's clause was going to be. There were two ways in which the local education authority could avoid its obligation. They could refuse to take the school over on these grounds, and the matter might be argued before the Commission. They might succeed in persuading the Commission, but they were perfectly safe in any case, because the Commission could not put upon them anything unless they consented. The second way of avoiding their obligation was not to make it a condition of arrangements—that was to say, not a condition of the voluntary agreement. The Solicitor-General, differing entirely as he understood from the Minister for Education, regarded it as very desirable that it should be a matter of arrangement and discussion between the trustees and the local education authority. He did not understand that to be the view of the Minister for Education, and the only way to avoid the difficulty was to say that it should not be a matter of discussion between the two whether the facilities should be granted or not. It was an important point, and he understood the right hon. Gentleman admitted it.

Mr. BIRRELL said he would consult with the noble Lord as to the best words to carry it into effect.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said the remarks of the Minister for Education were very satisfactory, because there was certainly an impression left on his mind, and, he thought, upon other minds, that the statement the right hon. Gentleman made to-day was not in harmony with that which he made the other day. From the previous statement they clearly understood that one condition only was to be permitted to interfere with the necessity of taking over a voluntary school, but to-day he understood the right hon. Gentleman to give a much larger concession. Was there intended to be any difference between the two statements? If not, what was the nature of the loophole which would enable the local authorities to escape from making this arrangement?

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) said it was obvious that a great deal of the discussion was wasted because they had not before them the exact terms of the Amendment to Clause 2 foreshadowed by his right hon. friend. But the Amendment now before the House raised a perfectly clear and intelligible issue, and he did make an appeal to his right hon. friend in the strongest terms. The right hon. Gentleman had already somewhat strained the allegiance of many of his strongest followers in the House of Commons by the Amendment which he had promised, placing as it would the discretion of the local education authority at the disposal of the Board of Education. He could assure his right hon. friend that many of his supporters who had sat silent on the Ministerial Benches with the view of helping the Bill forward, and they intended to do so to the utmost of their power, had listened to the foreshadowing of that Amendment with much doubt and misgiving. He hoped that in Clauses 3 and 4 his right hon. friend would show some firmness and some adherence to the general principles of the Bill, upon which he had obtained the power he now exercised as Minister for Education and upon which the Government had obtained their great majority. On the Ministerial side they were as anxious as hon. Members opposite to facilitate the advance of education by securing real peace in the schools on this religious question. He had not the slightest doubt that in dealing with village schools the local authorities would exercise generosity, discretion, and wisdom, but he warned the Minister for Education that he would strain to a dangerous point the allegiance of his followers if he consented to this whittling away of the discretionary power of the local education authorities in dealing with these vital issues under the Bill. The whole future of education was bound up in the discretionary power and rights of the local education authorities, and they regarded with the very gravest misgiving any tendency to yield to the very ingenious and able arguments advanced from the other side. Those arguments were based upon the one contention that the Party opposite desired to maintain on a permanent footing and with the sanction of the law the denominational system in this country. What they wished was to treat the present denominational schools and their teaching with as much generosity and forbearance as possible. It was for that reason that he welcomed this clause as a fair solution, just as much as he was determined to vote against Clause 4 in whatever form it finally assumed.

LORD BALCARRES reminded the Committee that the President of the Board of Education had already given them a promise that in cases of properly equipped sanitary schools the local education authority would have to grant facilities if demanded.

MR. BIRRELL: But the point my hon. friend was referring to is in regard to bridging the gap.

LORD BALCARRES said that if there was anything in the statement of the President of the Board of Education that he proposed to fill up the gap which existed in Clause 3 by making Clause 4 mandatory then the hon. Member for East Northamptonshire might have something to say on Monday next. The value of those facilities was largely governed by Clause 6. There was no provision in Clause 3 as regards school hours. The Minister for Education had told them that Clause 6 was going to be amended——

THE CHAIRMAN: Will the noble Lord kindly confine himself to the Amendment.

LORD BALCARRES said he wished to discuss the question of facilities, and they depended upon what was going to be done in Clause 6. In the event of Clause 6 being amended, he wished to know if this special denominational instruction would actually be given out of the hours of compulsory school attendance. This was a point to which they attached very great importance.

THE CHAIRMAN: That does not arise at this stage.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall) desired to thank the right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Education for his very satisfactory assurances as to what he would do when they reached Clause 6. Two points had troubled the owners of voluntary schools; one was that the children should be allowed to go free during the hour for religious instruction, and the second was as to the teachers having the option of giving religious instruction. With regard to the Amendment, what they wanted was that if the owners and trustees of voluntary schools required these facilities under Clause 3 they must be given. If that was made clear by the Amendment, Members on that side would be satisfied.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid.) said that if they went much farther in the direction in which the Minister for Education had gone, they would find the Bill being voted for consistently by Members of the Opposition and voted against by those sitting on the Ministerial side. The Amendment made the clause read absolutely absurd. He understood that the Minister for Education was going to lead his supporters into the Lobby against the Amendment. He was in favour of the clause as it stood at present. They had got into a great many of these muddles by discussing other clauses and promised Amendments which were not before the Committee, but the essence of this clause, and indeed the essential principle of the whole Bill, was that the local education authority should not be compelled to do certain things, and that it should be in their discretion to do certain things. The essence of the clause was that the local authority should be able to enter into an arrangement with the owners of voluntary schools, and if they did, then they were to have power to grant these facilities. The meaning of the clause was perfectly clear. The object of the Amendment was to place compulsion upon the local education authority. He voted for the Second Reading upon the basis that these were to be matters of arrangement between the local education authority and the owners of denominational schools. Upon those grounds he should vote against the Amendment. If there was any more compulsion put upon the education authority he should certainly be compelled to abstain if he did not vote against the Government. This was all to be a matter of arrangement, and it was absurd to hold out these hopes to the other side.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) said the discussion had shown that the Opposition were justified in the arguments they had put forward in regard to this clause. They assumed that the Minister for Education was quite sincere in granting facilities to religious denominations in connection with voluntary schools, and they assumed that the facilities would be real and not illusory. If the children were not compelled to attend, and if the teachers were not obliged to teach them, the intentions of the Government would be nullified by the operation of Clauses 6 and 7. They were appealing to the Government that Clause 3 should be so amended as to make it certain that the declared intention of the Government would be carried out. Members of the Opposition assumed that the intention of the Government would not be carried out by the clause in its present form. He thought they all clearly understood that if a local authority desired to take over a school, and the trustees desired to hand it over, facilities should be compulsory—that was to say that the local education authority should give the facilities.

MR. BIRRELL: If they are asked for.

SIR GILBERT PARKER said that as this was now understood, the discussion had produced great good. If there was any confusion in the minds of hon. Members opposite regarding the clause the Minister for Education had taken the opportunity of clearing up that misunderstanding. In the minds of hon. Members on the Opposition side of the House, there had been a complete lack of understanding on the matter until it was cleared up. They expressed their deep satisfaction that they had secured what they wished for, and what the Government intended to grant. The voluntary schools had been in a sense the property of those who founded them, who gave most of the money for them, and who through many years under trying conditions supported out of their own pockets, with very little help from the State, the education which was for the good not only of Church of England children, but of Nonconformist children, and the children of the poor who had no faith at all.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) said the remarks of the hon. members for East Northamptonshire and Mid-Glamorganshire were quite uncalled for. As he understood the matter the Minister for Education had done no more than give assurances which would make quite sure what everyone understood to be his intention. He did not think there was a single person in the House who heard the speech of the Minister for Education who did not understand it to be his intention that, provided the local authorities thought it desirable to take over the schools, and provided the owners of the schools desired to have these facilities, it should not be within the power of the local authorities to refuse them. He must protest against the Government being threatened in this childish and tragic way.

MR. HERBERT (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe) said he understood that the position desired to be met by the Amendment was this. There was, let them suppose, a voluntary school which, from a sanitary point of view, was suitable, and which from the point of view of educational necessity and economy the local authority would be willing to take over; but the local authority said to the trustees that they did not mean to have any denominational instruction given in the school, and, therefore, the trustees made it a condition that they would not hand it over unless the local authority gave them the right to facilities for denominational instruction under Clause 3. He understood that such a case would be clearly covered by the undertaking given by the Minister for Education. He did not quite agree with the interpretation which the Leader of the Opposition had been putting on the words of the Minister for Education. The right hon. Gentleman stated distinctly what hon. Members on his side of the House understood to be his intention. The Leader of the Opposition put it this way—

> "If you grant that a voluntary school is structurally fit, then the local education authority must take it over."

He said No.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If desired by the trustees.

MR. HERBERT said that if there was a large provided school built with the view of meeting the future needs of the neighbourhood, surely it could not be right from the point of view of the public interest that the trustees of a non-provided school should be able to say, "You must take it over, although from the point of view of the educational interest, you do not require it." That was the sense in which the Minister for Education was understood on that side of the House. The right hon. Gentleman had clearly given an undertaking that a school should not be refused simply because it was a denominational school. If the owners of a voluntary school made it a condition of handing it over that facilities should be provided, it would not then be open to the local authority to say that they would not comply with that condition.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the speech of the hon. Member for the Wycombe Division brought out exactly the point on which there was still some slight doubt in the minds of those who heard the debate the other day, and who listened to the statement of the Minister for Education. He certainly thought that the right hon. Gentleman went further than the hon. Member. A local authority might find that they had accommodation at their disposal in which all the children in a district could be received. There was, however, a denominational school in the district which, let them say, was a perfectly fit structure. According to his view of the Government pledge, the needs of denominational education would be safeguarded by making it compulsory for the local education authority to take over that second school; but according to the view of the hon. Member for the Wycombe division, the Government had entered into no such undertaking. It was evident that there was really a material difference between these two versions as to what the Government intended. The hon. Member had clearly put forward his conception of the pledge. He hoped he had not less clearly put forward his view of it. He hoped the matter would be cleared up by the Minister of Education.

Mr. DILLON asked whether it was or was not open to the Committee now to discuss the terms of the pledge given by the Government in regard to Clause 2.

The CHAIRMAN: It is not open to the Committee to discuss that subject.

Lord MORPETH (Birmingham, S.) said that under the present Act the difficulty alluded to by an hon. Member had already arisen in one of the divisions of Buckinghamshire. He had in his mind the case of a small village with two schools—one British and one Church of England. It was obvious that from the educational point of view it was a bad method of educating the children.

The CHAIRMAN: That is the same question again. It is really not in order, because the matter does not come under the terms of this Amendment.

Mr. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) said the Minister for Education had stated that the granting of facilities should be optional. He reminded the Committee that the right hon. Gentleman in his speech on the First Reading of the Bill, when referring to Clauses 2 and 3, said that the facilities were to be of a compulsory character.

Mr. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) said he objected to the Amendment because it took away from the local authority the power to manage their schemes. The Bill as it stood referred to the arrangements made at the taking over of the schools. If the Amendment were adopted it would be in the power of the owners or trustees of the school to call upon the local authority at some future time to make a different arrangement from that agreed upon at the taking over of the schools. He hoped the Minister for Education would stick to the Bill, and that while he tried to conciliate members opposite he would not disregard a large body of feeling on his own side of the House.

*__Mr. LEIF JONES__ (Westmoreland, Appleby) said that the point raised by the Amendment was not of such importance as was represented. It was thought that pressure might be put by the local authority on the trustees to waive the condition they had the power to make as to facilities for religious teaching, and that it might be conveyed to them somehow or other that if they insisted on that condition the school might not be taken over. Therefore it was proposed to make the condition mandatory. He submitted that the Bill dealt with the matter in a better way than the Amendment. If they wanted the school, the local authority had the power to go to the Commissioners under Clause 8. There might be circumstances in which it would be well to allow the trustees to waive the conditions and hand over the school. There might be circumstances in which the local authority would hold it to be undesirable to continue a school as a denominational school. For instance, in a village in which nine-tenths of the population were Nonconformists, it might be better to make provision for the denominational teaching of a tenth of the children outside the schools rather than build a new school. He could not conceive that the law would ever compel a local authority to take over a denominational school in a case of that kind. Without addressing any minatory language to the Minister for Education he ventured to suggest that his own scheme of a Commission to consider on what terms a trust school was to be taken over was a better method than that proposed in the Amendment.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said he hoped the right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Education would clear up the point at issue.

MR. BIRRELL said that he had undertaken to bring in an Amendment in the best words that could be found as soon as they had disposed of Clause 4. He could not go into the matter now without a much longer statement than he was inclined to make at that moment. The only undertaking which he had given was in reply to the Amendment of the hon. Member for Oxford University, as to making it obligatory on the part of the local authorities to take over the voluntary schools. He did then admit that it was impossible for the Government to consider a one-sided obligation of that sort, without a corresponding obligation on the part of all owners of voluntary schools to hand over their schools to the local authorities if the local authorities wished it. It was, therefore, a double-barrelled obligation. That was all the promise he had made; and he was not bound by any promise or kind of obligation other than that. Then he went on to say that, if it could be arranged without destroying the educational responsibility of the local authorities, he was anxious to secure that no local authority should refuse to take over the proper voluntary school simply and solely because of the religious facilities and obligations which would be attached to it under Clauses 3 and 4. That was all that was in his mind. After Clause 4 was disposed of, the Government would introduce such words as might be necessary for that purpose.

MR. PIKE PEASE said he wished to withdraw his Amendment, which had called forth two statements of the greatest importance from the Minister for Education, *viz.*, in regard to religious education being given in school hours and also in regard to making that power mandatory.

Leave to withdraw Amendment being refused—

Question put.

The Committee divided—Ayes, 387; Noes, 99. (Division List No. 139.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, A.Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury,E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert(Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J.H.(Essex,Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F (Ramsey)
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner,SirJohnT.(Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J.A.(Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hon. SydenyChas
Buxton, Rt. Hon. SydneyChas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T.Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,CH.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies,David(MontgomeryCo.)
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. (Howell (Bristol,S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan,C. (Barrow-in-Furness)

Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner,Col. Alan(Hereford,S.)
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt,Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazelton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred

Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride. Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea,HughCecil(St. Pancras, E.)
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H.(Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs)
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Arthur, William
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallett, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N.(Doncaster)
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry

O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
ODoherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps,Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps,J. Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price Robt. John(Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Reddy, M.
Redmond,John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts,John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt.Hn.E.(Dundee)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, HerbertL.(Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E.(Manchester
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball

Sinclair, Rt.Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim)
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh,
Steadman W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas,Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr)
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Walker, H. D. R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John(Stoke-upon-Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williamson, A. (Elgin & Nairn)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson,Hn. C.H.W.(Hull W.)
Wilson, Henry J. (York W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham Mid)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn.Hugh O
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour. RtHn A.J.(CityLond.)
Balfour Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood
Baring, Hon. Guy(Winchester)
Barrie, H.T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn.MichaelHugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.VictorC.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, LordR.(Maryleyone,E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craik, Sir Henry.
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan,Robert(Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Kennaway, Rt.Hon.SirJohnH.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.HonCol.W.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.,Fareham
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Middlemore,JohnThrogmorton
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, SirGilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Saunderson,Rt.Hn.Col. Edw.J.
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord. E (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A.Stanley(York, E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B.Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

*MR. MASSIE (Wiltshire, Cricklade) objected to the expression "of some special character," as describing the religious instruction to be given under the facilities provided by this clause and Clause 4, and moved to delete it and insert "in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed." He wished to know whether some limit could not be put upon the variety of the religious instruction. It was important that the character of this religious instruction should be specified as definitely as possible, as leave to give i would be part of the lease; and it seemed bette to define it according to the trust deeds than leave it to be wrangled about or to be interpreted by the Courts. These deeds usually described the instruction in a simple and definite form, such as "in accordance with the teaching of the Church of England" or the "doctrines of the Roman Catholic Church." The only reason for these facilities was respect for the trust deeds, and this object might be frustrated by the ambiguity of the phrase, since the parents of four-fifths of the children might capture particular schools for an alien faith. These were the reasons for which he asked the Government to give the Committee a more exact definition of "religious instruction of a special character," and that was the main purpose of his Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 25, to leave out the words 'of some special character,' and insert the words 'in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed.'"—(*Mr. Massie.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. LOUGH said the object of this Amendment was to obtain some clear explanation of the words "some special character." It was suggested that they might possibly get something somewhat clearer than the words in the Bill. But they had had an illustration of the difficulty of doing that in the speech of the hon. Member who moved the Amendment. The hon. Gentleman suggested the words "in accordance with the provisions of the trust deeds," but in a great many cases there were no trust deeds at all. The hon. Member did not tell the Committee the way out of the difficulty. Then again in many cases the trust-deed did not define clearly what the nature of the religious instruction was to be, and they would in those cases have to trace from other sources the growth of the religious teaching that existed. That was a great difficulty of which the suggestion in the Amendment would not get rid. Another difficulty was the change of the tone of the religious teaching in this country. He submitted that all these difficulties were exceedingly well met by the happy expression which the Government had incorporated in the Bill, and he did not see his way to accept the Amendment.

*__Mr. AUSTIN TAYLOR__ (Liverpool, East Toxteth) did not consider that the explanation of his hon. friend had altogether disposed of the difficulty. In the Act of 1902 the question of trust deeds came up, and a special provision was inserted by the House of Lords with regard to them. In the Act of 1902 the bishops or other ecclesiastical authorities were given as the court of appeal to decide whether the religious instruction given in a school was or was not in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed. When that Act was in Committee he moved an Amendment that the court of appeal should be the Privy Council, but it was rejected. Under this Bill provision was going to be made for religious instruction of a special character. That was all they knew about it; trust deeds were not mentioned; no particular religion was named; they did not even know the hemisphere from which the religion was to be drawn. It was upon that that he asked, Was there to be any appeal in case of dissatisfaction on the part of the parents of the children who attended the school? Who was going to decide after the bargain was made? Supposing that in a particular school special facilities for evangelical teaching were given, and the people woke up to the fact that a Roman Catholic in the guise of a Churchman had taken the place of the Evangelical clergyman, was there to be any court of appeal to decide whether the provisions of the special facilities had been complied with, and as to whether the children were getting the facilities which the local authority bargained they should get? It ought not to be left in doubt, especially owing to the very serious changes which were taking place in the Church. He wanted to know from his hon. friend, not whether he was prepared to alter the wording of this particular clause, but whether they were to have any further appeal in case dissatisfaction arose from the fact that the religious instruction given was not what the local authority expected when it made the bargain, and was not in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed.

Mr. LOUGH was understood to say that he thought the provision was perfectly clear.

Lord R. CECIL said the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education had not met the point of the hon. Member for the East Toxteth Division. What was the meaning of the words "of some special character?" He did not know; he saw nothing in the clause to explain what they meant. Apparently they meant the special character of the religion provided for in the trust deeds. If they did not mean that he did not know what they did mean. They might mean nothing so far as he could see. This was an admirable illustration of the extraordinary ambiguity of the clause. He thought the Government ought to explain what they meant by the words "of some special character." It might be that the Government contemplated some elaborate system of reference first to the trust deed and subsequently to the bishop or to the Board of Education. He did not know. Or it might mean of the special character selected by the trust deed.

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) agreed that the words were somewhat vague, but thought the proposed Amendment would land them in greater ambiguity. He suggested as a practical way out of the difficulty that the decision of the clauses should be of a negative character, and that "not repugnant to the provisions of any of the trust deeds relating thereto" should be inserted after "character." He thought that would get out of the difficulty.

Sir E. CARSON (Dublin University) said a good deal of this difficulty had arisen because the Government had quite unnecessarily broken the trusts. It would have been sufficient for the purposes of their Bill if they had still maintained the trusts except so far as was necessary for the purposes of carrying out the Bill. But in spite of the protests that had been made they let the trusts go, so that the owners of the schools now had a free hand and were at liberty to set up a religion which might not be in accordance with the trust deed at all. He would urge something in accordance with what the hon. Member for North Camberwell had suggested. Some alteration might be made after the words "of some special character." He did not think the explanation of the Parliamentary Secretary was sufficient, because they might have to deal with schools where trust deeds existed. If some such words as suggested were put in after "character" they would meet the case of trust deeds, and also the cases in which there were no trust deeds but in which it would be easy to prove there had been. It was absolutely necessary that there should be some limiting words in the clause; otherwise it would give absolute discretion to an owner to set up any religion he wished even though it were contrary to the provisions of the trust deed.

Sir W. ROBSON (who was indistinctly heard) did not think there would be any difficulty in actual working. If they proceeded, however, to make reference to the trust deeds they would lose all the advantages in one direction which they gained in another, and he thought it would be far better to allow some latitude to the trustees than always to confine them to the terms of the trust. The Kenyon-Slaney clause in the Act of 1902 modified the terms of the trusts, and he did not think the present proposal gave more than a fair latitude to the trustees, who might be trusted to deal with these matters.

*Mr. MASSIE asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Sir E. CARSON moved an Amendment to add after "character" the words "in accordance with the trust, if any, on which the school has been previously held, and." He thought everybody, whatever might be his views as regarded religious instruction, would agree that if they were to afford such instruction it ought to be in accordance with the trust deed, and they ought not to leave the power to the trustee of parting with the trusts.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 25, after the word 'character' insert the words 'in accordance with the trust, if any, on which the school has been previously held, and.'"—(*Sir E. Carson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) was afraid the words proposed might have a prejudicial effect upon those schools in the hands of private owners which could not be said to be held under any trust. In the Returns with regard to Kent there were something like fifty schools of which the larger number were distinctly under no trust at all, and if these words were introduced in the form in which they were moved he was rather afraid it might be held afterwards that these owners had no right to any special facilities at all. He only wished to make it quite clear that no voluntary school was excluded by the words his right hon. and learned friend wished to introduce.

*MR. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth) trusted the Government would not accept the Amendment. There were many conditions in which it might be necessary to have a special form of religious instruction which might be absolutely at variance with the trust deeds. Let them take, for example, the case of the Wesleyan schools. The conditions of the Wesleyan trust deeds provided for the teaching of the Wesleyan Catechism. There might possibly be nothing in the Wesleyan Catechism at variance with the fundamental tenets of the Church of England, but at the same time the Wesleyan authorities would probably desire to transfer many and perhaps all their schools without any condition whatever as to the teaching of the Catechism. Or let them take the case of the trust deed of the National Society, in regard to so many of the schools in Lincolnshire, where in many cases 60 per cent., in some cases more than 90 per cent., and in one case he knew of 98 per cent., of the children in national schools were Nonconformists. It would be absurd to impose a condition for ever on such buildings that all the children of the village were to be educated according to the condition of the National Society trust deeds in the tenets of the Church of England. This Amendment would require that. [OPPOSITION cries of "No."] It was dangerously near it, at all events. It was really essential in many of our villages that there should be the greatest possible latitude exercised in view of the rapid changes which were taking place in the instruction and even ceremonial in connection with religious worship, so that he begged the Government not to limit the local education authority by restricting this special form of religious teaching to a strict compliance with the conditions of the trust deeds on which the schools might be held.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR did not in any way desire to commit himself to an unqualified support of trust deeds, but he would respectfully ask for an Answer to a Question he put on a previous Amendment. He was not concerned so much about the bargain made between the local authority and the owners or trustees as to the special religious instruction, whatever it might be, as he was about the carrying out of the bargain. Under the Act of 1902 power of appeal was given to ecclesiastical authority to settle any deviation. What he desired to know was whether the local education authority had any interest in the question at all. If it had he could quite understand that the local education authority might object and the children attending school might object to the progressive development of a particular religious instruction under these facilities. If differences did arise in a school was there any appeal, and, if so, to whom did it lie? If there were no appeal, were they to understand there was unlimited discretion to the trustees as there appeared to be unlimited vagueness?

SIR W. ROBSON thought the matter would be met by the concluding words of the section which referred to the wishes of the parents. This clause was a sort of guarantee against the imposition on the school of extreme developments, about which his hon. friend was so apprehensive. There was no clause expressly enabling the local authority to control religious instruction. If there were such a clause they would be embarking in a sphere they did not desire to touch

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR thought the Question asked by the hon. Gentleman below the gangway was one of importance. Under the existing system it rested with the school managers of the voluntary schools to determine from year to year, or from week to week, what the religious instruction was to be. Who was going to be responsible for the denominational religious instruction when this Bill was passed? Who was going to be responsible for the management of religious education under the special facilities of this clause? At present there were managers and an appeal, but if this Bill were passed they would have neither managers nor an appeal. The point raised by the hon. Member was a very important one. A bargain was made between the trustees and the local authority after which the trustees had no further duties. [An Hon. Member: Why?] Were they still to manage? [An Hon. Member: They have to pay for it.] After all, paying was the least of the privileges they had. He was not so sure that the point could be adequately dealt with on the present Amendment, but it was certainly a matter which ought to be dealt with. He wished to know from the Government what authority in their opinion would be responsible from year to year for the character of the teaching which was to go on in the school. Was that laid down in the Bill, and if not upon whom would it devolve? He thought some clear provision ought to be made for this.

***The CHAIRMAN**: That question is really out of order. I am sorry to have to say so again. There is an Amendment before the Committee to insert certain words, and the question which the right hon. Gentleman is discussing does not arise on that Amendment.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said the Amendment was to insert words securing that the religious teaching should be—

"in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed."

That surely directly raised the question of who was responsible under the Bill for dealing with religion education in the schools. He should like to know whether that was not immediately and directly raised by this Amendment.

***The CHAIRMAN**: That question does not arise, as the right hon. Gentleman will see if he looks at the clause, which says that if facilities are part of the arrangement, facilities are to be allowed, and the right hon. Gentleman himself has practically said so himself.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: No.

***The CHAIRMAN**: I must rule that the question is not in order.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said all he desired to say was that he had not made the observation which the Chairman had attributed to him.

Lord R. CECIL said the discussion simply showed how ill-conceived the whole of this clause really was. The hon. Member for East Toxteth had pointed out that the children attending these schools had been accustomed to have a right to a certain class of religious teaching, and under this Bill there was no provision to secure that teaching. The clause proceeded upon the assumption that there would be only one kind of religion taught by special facilities under Clause 3, but that was a total misconception. It was quite possible to proceed on the lines that the education of the country already went on, namely, that schools established by private benefactions each offered a particular kind of religious instruction. There was a very great difficulty where there was only one such school in a particular district and where no choice of religious instruction was offered. The real reform required was to offer a choice of religious instruction to the children of each particular district, and they wanted facilities all round.

***The CHAIRMAN**: This question of all round facilities is not in order.

Lord R. CECIL said there was only one way in which a satisfactory agreement upon this subject could be reached, and that was by a full, fair and free discussion. It did not appear to him that the Government had in any way dealt with the objection raised by the hon. Member for East Toxteth, and they had not shown how the religious education of the children was to be protected. There was nothing to show that the trustees would have a word to say on the subject after they had made their arrangements. There was nothing at all to show what special facilities meant. The Bill provided that only one form of denominational teaching should be given, and that was of a wholly indefinite character.

Mr. J. W. WILSON (Worcestershire, N.) denied that this clause abrogated the trust deed. The trustees would continue to receive certain moneys, they would have the religious education in their own hands, and they would be responsible to the same authorities as before. There was nothing in the Bill to alter their position. They would still remain responsible for their trusts, and he thought all the discussion on this Amendment had been a waste of time.

Mr. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said it could not be left out of consideration that the managers would be abolished by the Bill, and the clause simply allowed the local authority to provide special facilities, and failed to construct an alternative authority to supervise the religious teaching.

Sir E. CARSON reminded the hon. Member for North Worcestershire that the trustees were left absolutely at large and under Section 2 the trust was entirely broken. The hon. Member had said that the position was the same under the Act of 1902, but it was not so, because the trusts for religion were preserved under that Bill. Under the present Bill such trusts were absolutely abrogated. Under Sub-section 2 of Section 2 the trustees had full power, notwithstanding the trusts, to make and carry out any arrangement under the section. He had asked to have that limited, but it was refused because the Government wanted to get rid of the trust deeds altogether. The trustees might under the Bill divert the school premises and the school trust to an entirely different purpose. That was the plain issue between them. All he asked was to have the religious teaching of a special character maintained as before, but there was not one word in the Bill to secure that. They really had come to an extremely important point, because, so far as he could see, once the trustees had made an arrangement with the local authority the trust was practically at an end as far as the trust deed was concerned. In his opinion, and he stated it most emphatically, if the Bill was left in its present form the whole of the special facilities would really be an absolute sham, because there was no machinery for seeing that the particular religious teaching which had been carried on should be continued. There was no machinery insisting on such special facilities being in accordance with the trust deed and unless some such machinery was set up by the Bill these provisions would in his opinion in many cases turn out to be absolutely illusory. Would the local authority have anything to say after the agreement was made in regard to the special religion which was being carried out in the school ?

Sir W. ROBSON said that if they had made their arrangement there was no doubt that the responsibility would be cast upon the owners or the trustees. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the owners and trustees would die and nobody would be left to perform their duties. He might inform the right hon. Gentleman that in the Bill they had contemplated the continuity of the Church of England. He assumed that the Church of England was not in the least likely to allow those schools to lapse from want of care and vigilance in the enforcement of the original trusts so far as the owners of the schools desired to enforce them. If the owners ceased to take further interest in the matter that was a different affair. Of course the Committee would not expect the Government to introduce a number of clauses providing machinery for cases where there were negligent or careless owners who did not desire to continue religious instruction. He thought everyone would assume the continuity of the Church of England, and the continuity of a desire on the part of those who belonged to it to safeguard their educational interests. They might feel confident that the interests of religious education would not be overlooked by them.

Mr. WYNDHAM said the hon. and learned Gentleman had not taken note of the fact that in the schedule of the Bill Sub-section (2) of Section 6 of the Act of 1902 was repealed, and that the Government left no machinery for carrying out all those matters which they professed to be leaving in the charge of the trustees of the schools.

Mr. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) asked whether the Solicitor-General suggested that the Church of England or the parents of the children could take action in a case where a local authority broke, or neglected to carry out, an agreement to give facilities for Church of England teaching.

*__The CHAIRMAN__: If hon. Members will only look at the clause and the Amendment they will see that the words are—

> "If the affording of facilities under this section for the giving of religious instruction of some special character not permitted under Section 14 of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, and in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed has been made a condition of any arrangement for the use by the local education authority of the schoolhouse of a transferred voluntary school."

If that is made a condition of the bargain, provision is made at the end of the clause that these facilities are to be allowed. Therefore the question which the hon. Gentleman asks does not arise.

Mr. HARWOOD said the Solicitor-General seemed to assume that trustees would be abrogated They would not be abrogated at all. This Bill only proposed to take the use of the transferred schools which must remain in the possession of the present owners The trustees must be continued, and one of their duties was to see to religious education. They would make a bargain and it would be for them to see that its terms were carried out. Therefore, the whole question raised by the Amendment was a mare's nest.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes 94; Noes, 388. (Division List No. 140.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn.HughO
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, RtHn.A.J.(CityLond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn.MichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Herny
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hon.VictorC.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R.(Marylebone, E.
Coates, E.Feetham(Lewisham)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dixon-Hartland,Sir FredDixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Kennaway, Rt.Hon.SirJohn H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
King, SirHenrySeymour (Hull)
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.,Fareh'm)
Liddell, Henry
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.
Lonsdale, Jonh Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Middlemore, JohnThrogmorton
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Smith,F.E.(Liverpool,Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland(Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley, L. Jones-
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, JosephA.(Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beaumont Hubert (Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Ballairs, Carlyon
Benn.W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.)
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black,Arthur W. (Bedforshire)
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, Sir Jn. T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J.A.(Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clelland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T.Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett,CH (Sussex,E Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies,David(MontgomeryCol.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson,W.H. (St.Pancras,N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J.H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,MajorE.Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R.W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner,Col.Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone. Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie,J.Keir(Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davis, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis(Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope,W.Bateman (Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins. J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea,HughCecil (St. Pancras, E.
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex,Harwich
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(FalkirkBurghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald

Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Arthur, William
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r)
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Osward
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton
Phillips, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolver'mpt'n)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edw. (Salisbury)
Thomas Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Sir J. L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarthn
Williamson, A. (Elgin and Nairn)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.
Wilson, H. J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

LORD R. CECIL moved to amend the clause so as to provide that where "the parents of fifteen children attending any transferred voluntary school desire such facilities," those facilities should be given.

*MR. LEIF JONES said that on Clause 2 the Committee had decided that owners of voluntary schools might make any arrangement they chose, and he did not see how, in the terms of the Amendment, the parents of fifteen children in a village or town could be allowed to over-ride a decision taken under Clause 2.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the words quoted, if pushed, as the hon. Member suggested, to their extreme logical meaning, would have ruled out most of Clause 2 and the whole of Clause 3. He had tried to the best of his ability to deal with Amendments, and he did not feel justified in refusing the noble Lord the right to move his Amendment as amended.

LORD R. CECIL said that his Amendment raised a very important point which ought to be discussed. He could not help thinking that on this clause, as at present settled, they were proceeding on a principle which was only partially defensible. They were not proceeding on the principle that the schools, for most educational purposes, were to be taken out of the hands of the owners and handed over to the local education authority, and at the same time the owners were to settle what kind of religious instruction was to be given under Clause 3. He admitted that the Minister for Education had said that the local authority could not refuse to take over a school merely on the ground that an arrangement was demanded. Once having done that it seemed to him difficult to decide what religious instruction was to be given to the children attending the schools. The view he had always had was that such a settlement would take it out of the hands of the owners of the Church schools to decide what facilities should be given in the Church schools for religious teaching. That was, in his opinion, a very important concession to the Nonconformists. His Amendment proposed that wherever they found the parents of fifteen children—whether they were Wesleyans or Congregationalists or Anglicans—they should have facilities for these children to be taught according to the religion of their parents. That seemed to him to be perfectly just. He advocated that on all religious questions the children should be brought up in the faith of their fathers. He did not wish that any special religion should be taught, and it was for that reason that he advocated this improvement in the Bill. In the history of the education question we had drifted into a position that was not defensible. Up to 1870 the theory of our education policy was that the benefactor came in and established schools which the children could attend or not as they pleased. The benefit was entirely conferred on the children. But when education was made compulsory different considerations arose. Hardship occurred where there was only one school and that of a particular denomination. The only alternative was that the parents should have the right to say what religion should be taught to their children. He had sufficient confidence in the common-sense of his fellow-countrymen to believe that they would realise that that was the only really just settlement of the religious difficulty.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 31, after the word 'schoolhouse,' to insert the words 'or if the parents of fifteen children attending a transferred voluntary school desire such facilities.'"—(*Lord R. Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. MASTERMAN (West Ham, N.) said he was very glad that they had come to a discussion on this important point on Clause 3. He had given a pledge to his constituents to try and raise the point, but he had almost despaired of seeing it brought forward until the noble Lord moved his Amendment. It was a question that was raised in 1902 by the noble Lord's brother, but was not received with very much approbation on his side of the House. It would delight some of those who thought this was a fair and just system if the noble Lord could carry his Party with him under altered conditions. The Amendment did not, of course, mean that it was possible in the great majority of village schools to provide teaching of all kinds and sorts which the parents desired and divide the children into seven or eight pens, but it did provide some guarantee against the kind of injustice which, he thought, existed at present and which might be made permanent by this Bill. The injustice to which he referred was that only the clergyman should be admitted to give religious teaching, while the Nonconformist minister was excluded. That seemed to him to be a monstrous proposal to come from the Liberal side of the House. He thought it desirable that some Amendment of this sort should be carried, giving the right of entry to ministers of all denominations. During the First Reading of the Bill the plea was advanced that it was grossly unfair to contrive a system by which one privileged religion should have practically a monopoly of what religious teaching was given. They could not make the local authority establish pens or divisions, or enable every group of fifteen parents to do it. But they could give a chance for other kinds of denominational teaching besides the kind favoured by the owners of the transferred school. If there was only one kind of denominational teaching in a school, he had no doubt that all the children would gradually drift into the particular kind of religion which the instruction imparted, and they would get that predominance of one religion in the villages, which he should profoundly deplore. Personally, he might prefer that no religious teaching should be given in the schools, but if any denominational teaching was given, then they should have all denominational teaching, and get back from the principle of property to a broader and more general principle. He did not care anything at all about the property argument, but he did care that parents who seriously desired their children brought up in their own faith should have their desire gratified, and it was the duty of a Liberal Government to se that means were provided.

Mr. LOUGH thought that, whatever might be the merits of the question, to raise it on Clause 3 was extremely inconvenient. The clause related entirely to the arrangement to be made between the owners of voluntary schools and the local authorities. The proper occasion for the moving of such an Amendment would be on Clause 4. But the objection to the Amendment was that it would set up pan-denominationalism of the worst kind. It also involved the repeal of the Cowper-Temple clause of the Act of 1870. The question, moreover, had been three times before the Committee, and each time decided in the negative. The clause dealt with an entirely different subject from the Amendment, and the parents' right of appeal under Clause 4.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that Clause 4 did not touch this question.

Mr. LOUGH said that Clause 4 did touch this question, because it conferred rights upon the parents of at least four-fifths of the children attending the school in regard to the acquisition of facilities. Clause 4 therefore would raise the general question of facilities to be given to parents, but under this clause they were confined to a great extent, if not absolutely, to the arrangements to be made with the owners or trustees of the schools. This point, therefore, ought to be raised upon Clause 4, although he quite recognised the scruples which had induced the noble Lord to endeavour to introduce his Amendment at this particular place.

Lord R. CECIL said he had no scruples at all. The only point was that he was a little surprised that the hon. Member, who was a Nonconformist, did not desire to have this question discussed.

Mr. LOUGH said that he would say no more, except that this Amendment in his judgment ought to be brought in somewhere else. He therefore hoped the noble Lord would not press the Amendment at this particular point.

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON said it was perfectly possible, and not inconvenient, to insert the Amendment in the Clause, though it would have been more convenient to have accepted the Amendment he had moved to Clause 1, which covered the same ground as this. Why should the nature of the religious instruction to be given in a school be confined to two alternatives — Cowper-Templeism or the particular form of denominationalism which commended itself to the owners? It was not the inclinations of the owners or trustees for which they should have regard, but the wishes of the parents of the children attending the school. As for the suggestion of the Parliamentary Secretary that the Amendment would set up pan-denominationalism, he would point out that there was not so great a variety of religious opinion in rural districts. It was to these districts that Clause 3 particularly referred, while Clause 4 related to urban districts. Nor did the Amendment involve the repeal of the Cowper-Temple clause, for it was only concerned with transferred voluntary schools and the facilities proposed to be allowed in them. He thought the Amendment would go a long way to settle the religious difficulty.

*MR. VERNEY (Buckinghamshire, N.) did not believe the noble Lord really desired that the Amendment in the way it was put down should be carried. The parents of fifteen children would include the case of three prolific widows with families of five children each attending the school. The Amendment as now worded with the numbers given would be impossible to work practically and would lead to uncertainty and confusion.

LORD R. CECIL said perhaps he might be allowed to explain. His interest was in the children, and he did not care whether they were born of prolific widows or not. He attached no great importance to the particular number fifteen, and was prepared to consider any Amendment which might be moved to alter that figure. What he did care about was that the children should be taught the religion of their parents.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY supported the Amendment, and said that this was the only clause upon which the matter could be raised. Under the Act of 1902 there was a difficulty in regard to single school districts. He believed that the Amendment would to a great extent remove that difficulty, and unless it was accepted he thought a great injustice would be done to denominational schools. There was no reason why they should not remove an injustice of which complaint had been made in the past, and it was on that ground that he asked the Government to carefully consider the Amendment.

DR. MACNAMARA said he had been struck with the way in which they repeatedly got far away from the real practical day's work of the school, and this Amendment was a case in point. It sounded sweetly reasonable, and in theory nothing could be said against it. The only difficulty about it was that it could not be carried out. Let the Committee observe the curious quarter from which it came. The noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone was one who said they must not violate trusts, and the right hon. Member for Oxford University spoke of the sanctity of trusts and the pious founder. He was sure the pious founder must turn in his grave at this proposal. [" Why ?"] It would introduce into schools set aside for one particular form of religious teaching all sorts of religious teaching. But frankly he did not much care what precise colour of denominational teaching the children got so long as they were kept in one family. He knew that the limited capacity of the child would not permit him to take in all these nice theological points about which the various denominations squabbled and which might very well be left to an older age. But he was violently against the segregation of children of tender age. The moment they said the parents of fifteen children should have the right to demand special facilities the others would want the same. And if they did not want it there would be those who would see that they did. If they let the parents alone they were perfectly satisfied to-day with simple Bible teaching. But they were not let alone. Other reasons were brought to bear, and they were induced to make their demand also. And so far from having all the children together in a common family, with all its admirable advantages from a social side, they would have them set aside in sections, and there would be pandemonium. He had resisted such proposals all through; he had resisted them in 1902, although he had nothing to say in theory in support of the position he took up.

MR. WYNDHAM (Dover) said the hon. Member for North Camberwell had admitted that he had nothing to say in theory in support of his argument. What weight, then, was to be attached to it. The hon. Member had said he wished all the children to be kept together, but the Bill prevented it. If that was the ideal they might have left matters where they were. The hon. Member had challenged them to discuss the practical aspect of this matter. He had been told by one who was conversant with the practical aspect that parents would send their children to a Church school or a Roman Catholic school if it was five minutes nearer than a board school. They were satisfied to leave the children together, but the hon. Member was not satisfied to do so. He said the trustees or owners might make a little special caste in the school, and that all the other children might be fished for by other persons.

They were in this Bill, therefore, destroying the first argument which the hon. Member put forward. They had not got this single contented family; it had been shattered. The second argument was no more than a dialectical retort. The hon. Member had pointed out that on the previous night they had dwelt on the sanctity of trusts. That was true, but they said it was not desirable to make so drastic a change in the trusts for an object so small to hon. Members opposite, and so inequitable from the point of view of hon. Gentlemen with whom he sat. If the hon. Member would accept this Amendment there would be something to be said in favour of this violation of trusts. He would have given something in return; he would have recognised for the first time that the spiritual welfare of the children was of more importance than the trusts and the owners. The third argument was that pandemonium would be established; but so far from that being the case, something of this kind did now exist by the goodwill of Churchmen in some parts of the country. If the Goverment did not accept this Amendment they would in practice be taking a reactionary step.

DR. MACNAMARA: Where?

MR. WYNDHAM said that in Dover in the articles of agreement of the church schools provision was made for the right of entry.

DR. MACNAMARA: What use is made of it?

MR. WYNDHAM said that in Dover very little use was made of it, because the people there agreed rather with the first than with the third argument of the hon. Member. They agreed to leave the children together. But at Hythe, seven miles from Dover, where the school was conducted by a clergyman of the Church of England who belonged to what was called by some the High Church party, these facilities were given and were readily availed of. There were forty-seven children in the school being given religious instruction of a character totally distinct and different from the religious teaching this gentleman gave to the other ninety children. So that if the Government resisted this Amendment they would be taking a reactionary step and stopping an amount of religious liberty which did now exist in some parts of the country. As one who had too often and perhaps, sometimes too warmly championed the interest of the Church of England, he might say he supported the Amendment with all his heart, and agreed with every word that had fallen from the hon. Member for West Ham, because he thought it strengthened the defences of religious instruction. In accepting the Amendment the Government would strengthen instead of weakening the defences of religious instruction throughout the country, and they would vindicate themselves from the charges that had been sometimes unjustly preferred against them. For that reason, if for no other, they were entitled to ask the Government's acceptance of the Amendment. If it was accepted it would meet the difficulty pointed out by the hon. Member for the East Toxteth Division of Liverpool, and it would meet the difficulty of the local authority saying to the trustee, "You may have religious instruction on two days a week if you like, because we must take your school." If this Amendment was accepted the difficulty would be met because the parents of the fifteen children might then say, "No, with your permission we will have our way and have on two other days the religious instruction that we wish should be given." The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education had urged the Committee not to press this Amendment because this was not the proper place. It never was the proper place, according to the Government, in which to bring forward any general consideration touching the whole question of religious instruction. On one occasion it was a matter of local government and on another that of trust deeds and the extent of their modification. Never until now had it been in order to introduce specific words to show some regard for the religious welfare of the children and the wishes of the parents. If the parents had the right to say "No" to religious instruction of which they did not approve, why should they not have the right to say what kind of religious instruction they would have?

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said it was quite obvious that the Amendment incorporated the principle of the general right of entry, a principle upon which the Committee had already stated its definite opinion. He objected to the Amendment both in theory and in practice. Nothing could be more detrimental to the interests of the children than their being divided into pens. It was certainly curious as coming from the noble Lord that he was willing that a Methodist, an Anabaptist, a Buddhist, or a Jew, should come into a little school and get his little scholars into a corner so that he might teach them sectarianism. This was not religious teaching at all, but the teaching of sectarianism. He would ask the hon. Member for North West Ham whether any of his Nonconformist constituents asked for this right of entry.

MR. MASTERMAN said it was a promise he made to his Nonconformist constituents.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said what he desired to know was whether any Nonconformist constituent asked his hon. friend for a right of entry into denominational schools which did not belong to them. It was right that they who represented Nonconformists in this House should say that Nonconformists—not because they did not desire that religious teaching should be given to the children—expressly stated that they did not want in State schools either at their own expense, or at the expense of the State, or in any way whatever, to teach sectarianism in the schools.

LORD R. CECIL said that the hon. Member assumed that denominational teaching was sectarianism. Members of the Church of England and of the Church of Rome believed that religion consisted in belonging to a communion. It was the gross intolerance of people outside this House, who urged the hon. and learned Gentleman to make this kind of observation, that prevented a settlement of the religious question.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said he did not complain of the noble Lord speaking strongly, because he held strong convictions on the subject, but for that very reason others should also be allowed to speak strongly. In the view of Nonconformists, Anglicans and Roman Catholics were members of sects. What was behind this proposal? If the Amendment were accepted, there would be no answer to the claim that the same righ of entry should be given in the case o all provided schools.

LORD R. CECIL: I said so.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS said that in that case the Committee would know how to deal with the Amendment, which would introduce strife into a number of schools. Under the circumstances he hoped the Ministerial side of the Committee would be unanimous, with the one exception of his hon. friend the Member for North West Ham.

*EARL PERCY (Kensington, S.) sincerely trusted the Government would think twice before rejecting the Amendment. He had always been in favour of the right of entry in all schools. The true principle was that every child as far as possible should be brought up in the denominational belief of its parents. Unless some such Amendment were accepted, there would be no guarantee that even a majority of the children would receive any religious education at all. The President of the Board of Education had removed a great blot in the Bill by the Amendment he accepted yesterday to Clause 2 at the suggestion of the hon. Member for Oxford University. The right hon. Gentleman at all events rendered it possible for the owners to make it a condition that besides the facilities for a certain number of children there should be compulsorily given at least Cowper-Temple teaching to the rest of the children in the schools. But supposing the owners did not make that stipulation, and the local authority having provided special facilities did not want to give Cowper-Temple teaching in addition, then there was no guarantee that some of the children would receive any kind of religious instruction. That was not a state of things they could look upon with equanimity. He had always thought that the main objection to the system of 1870 was not so much that Cowper-Temple teaching was unsatisfactory or that favouritism was shown to one form of religious belief, but that it was left to the option of a local authority to deprive children of the most elementary religious education. If the Government could not accept the words of the Amendment, he hoped they would introduce some words to compel the local authority to give some religious teaching to the children attending voluntary schools, whose parents did not belong to the denomination to which facilities were accorded.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) believed that on this line only could a permanent settlement of the difficulty be found. He advocated the Amendment as a stepping-stone to three other conditions, namely, that the religious education should be given by the school teachers, in the school hours, and that it should be of universal application. Why was it the hon. Member for North Camberwell was invariably getting up in his place and saying—"You cannot do it because I say so?" The right of entry was working well at the present time in the Poor Law schools of England. In the model rules issued by the Secretary of State, which existed even so far back as the last Liberal Government, it was laid down with regard to reformatory schools that in the case of those children who were specified in the order of detention as belonging to a particular religious persuasion the managers should, so far as practicable, make arrangements that, during the time set apart for religious instruction, they should have such instruction imparted by ministers of such persuasion or by such responsible teachers of the schools or other persons delegated by the ministers with the approval of the managers. [AN HON. MEMBER: Does that apply to ordinary school hours?] As a matter of fact it did, although it was not in the rules. Only one case had been mentioned by the hon. Member for North Camberwell in which the system had broken down. The same system was in operation in Germany, and it worked without any difficulty. It might be said that there were fewer denominations in Germany, but even in this country they would find that the number of denominations in any particular school was very few, especially in the rural districts. In a Church of England school the probabilities were that the different Nonconformists who attended that school would be content with one teacher of a particular kind and one form of teaching. In other cases where denominational differences were more acute his argument was all the stronger, because if the members of the Nonconformist body did not agree upon a common teacher they would be entitled to have a separate teacher. The bedrock and basis of this proposal was exactly what the hon. Member for Mid. Glamorgan had swept aside. The point was whether the people of England as a whole did not prefer denominational teaching for their children. He thought they did. In his opinion denominational teaching had taken a hold in this country and had become an integral part of the educational system. In the debate on the Act of 1902 the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that denominational schools were an integral portion of our educational system, and the Minister for War had declared that he had never been an objector to denominational education. The Secretary for Foreign Affairs also had declared that if there were alternative schools he should not press his objection to rate-aided denominational schools. Therefore he was justified in saying that there were in the Cabinet a number of Ministers who recognised that denominationalism was an integral part of the religious education of the country. The people desired denominationalism and why should it not be the basis of education? He submitted that it was upon these lines that they were likely to arrive at a permanent settlement of the question. He asked the Government seriously to consider this Amendment as what he earnestly believed to be the basis of a settlement of the religious difficulty, Sooner or later it would have to be adopted, and under it they would give every parent the opportunity of having his child taught the religon of the denomination to which he belonged.

MR. BIRRELL said he could assure the hon. and learned Member for Cambridge University that he took this Amendment quite seriously, and he wished to give some evidence of his own solemnity. The whole of this question was a very serious one, but he desired to point out that it had already been dealt with, and that the Government had expressed their opinion upon it. It was hardly reasonable, therefore, that hon. Members opposite should expect a detailed reply from him now. The history of the clause showed how difficult it was to please people. The Committee had been told by the noble Lord and by the right hon. Member for Dover that they did not care about property. But these trust schools were concerned with property and the Commission might have to consider "Aye" or "No" whether a particular school ought to be transferred to the local education authority, and how far the new school, when transferred, could be said properly to be a school for carrying out the trusts established in the deeds. That was the reason why they had provided that when a school was taken over the conditions were to be mandatory, enabling Church of England, Wesleyans, or other denominational schools to be taken over and to have facilities for instructing the children in the special views of the denomination to which the school belonged. That was their purpose and everybody would agree that it was an honourable purpose. That was the desire of the Government, and, if all went well, he thought people would be amazed to find how admirably it would work, and he felt quite sure that the children themselves would not discover that this marvellous Act had come into law. The noble Lord had put a point which had been often in the mind of the Government, namely, that a county council could not be expected to have imposed on them as a matter of obligation the giving of what was called "Cowper-Templeism" instruction. The Committee would see from the partial but satisfactory return which had been laid on the Table of the House the state of the case and the nature of the syllabuses that were in actual use by the local education authorities. He recommended any hon. Member who wished to spend a profitable Sunday to read that remarkable document showing what Cowper-Templeism might be, what it was among the great majority of educational authorities in England, and what an invaluable system of religious instruction it was. The noble Lord suggested that it should be made obligatory.

LORD R. CECIL: Where the parents demanded it.

MR. BIRRELL: Obligatory to do what? He could not settle the form of syllabus, for an unwilling educational authority might decree a very insufficient system of Cowper-Templeism. His objection to the noble Lord's suggestion was that the Government had made up their minds not to make Cowper-Templeism obligatory on the county council and the local education authority, but to leave them the option which the law had for so long a time afforded to them. Having regard to the pledges of the Government in this matter it was idle to press upon them the adoption of this Amendment.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the fact that the right hon. Gentleman remained obstinately convinced that his solution, or want of solution, of the education question was the one to which he intended to adhere did not absolve the Opposition from the duty of pressing a different point of view. When this question was discussed on an earlier occasion the debate was most inadequate, for it arose during the unfortunate time of the dinner hour, when, under the new rules, hon. Members were expected to do two things at the same time. It would be apparent, he thought, that that discussion, and the present discussion, had been of great use in connection with the problem. He had been attacked by the hon. Member for North West Ham for not dealing with this matter in the Act of 1902, and for not attempting to give any effect then to the principles advocated by the noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone. Let the Committee consider what the position then was. He held then, and he held now, that there were two inequalities and injustices involved in the legislation of 1870, and which were not remedied by the Act of 1902—the injustice of the single-school area and the injustice of requiring the teaching of Cowper-Templeism. These two defects in the Act of 1870 and the system which it established remained unremedied up to the present time. Had it been possible—and everybody knew that it was not possible—to deal with that in the Act of 1902, they might have introduced universally a system that would have wholly removed the injustice of the single school area, and had the effect at the same time of giving a great shock to the hon. and learned Member for Mid Glamorganshire, who for some reason he had never been able to understand regarded Cowper-Temple teaching as the very bulwark of Nonconformity.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: I have never held that view.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR admitted that the phrase he had used was one of his own coining, but he believed it expressed the hon. Member's view. The hon. Member and his friends had always regarded it as something almost sacrosanct which Parliament ought never to be allowed under any circumstances to touch. They had always regarded this as the limitation which local authorities ought to maintain.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS: My position always has been, and is now, that Nonconformity as such has nothing at all to do with denominational religion in the schools, and that Nonconformists do believe in most cases in simple Bible teaching, which is Cowper-Temple teaching.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said it was not what the Nonconformists desired he was discussing; it was their determination that nobody else who had hitherto provided schools should have what they wanted. In the present amendment they could not touch the second half of that particular form of remedy known as "facilities." They could only touch the part relating to the voluntary schools, and he did not believe that if this half were adopted the Committee would be able to touch the other half. Were it adopted by the Committee, it would be not only a first step, but a long step, in the direction of freeing the local authorities from the Cowper-Temple clause and giving to the parents the right of getting denominational teaching in provided schools. It was not on that account, however, that he would raise objection to the Amendment. If objection was to be raised, it should be because it only went a little way in dealing with a half of the evil. Did hon. Members think that the argument which they had advanced on the practical side possessed all the weight they attached to it? The practical argument was a physical argument, namely, that they could not find the space or the conveniences to teach the scholars in sections. In so far as that objection was real — and it might be real in small schools—it could be met by the words "as far as practicable." But the Committee should also look at the practical difficulty on its moral side. It was apparently regarded as inimical to all the best interests of the children that they should recognise at an early age that, in addition to their common Christianity, their parents belonged to different denominations. But surely that fact could not be concealed from the children, and no parent would wish to conceal it. Any parent bringing up his child at home would tell him, "I am a member of such-and-such a Christian communion, and I hope that you will also belong and be an ornament to that communion." That was what had happened in the teaching at home. Was there anything in the view of attempting to give the same teaching in the school which would prevent the children from living in amity together or which would accentuate the religious difficulties which existed? He could not believe that this was the view of the Government, because he found in one of their educational measures this identical provision, declaring that as far as practicable facilities should be given in schools for the blind, that the children should receive the religious instruction, and attend the religious services according to the persuasion of the parents. This was the object of his noble friend, and he could not see why the system which was practicable in a particular kind of school should be declared to be impracticable in the schools with which the Committee were now dealing. Surely it was manifest that the argument if applicable to one kind of education was equally applicable to another. He would go further, and would remind the Committee that in Scotland this plan was carried out without difficulty and without offence, without the production of any of the evils alleged in respect of many schools. The Committee ought not rashly to say that it was wholly impossible for an Englishman to do that which Scotsmen found to be easy. Ought not this fact to modify the attitude of critics as to this particular plan? It was logical in its completeness, and its justice, at all events as far as paper provisions were concerned, had been admitted by its severest critics. Practice and theory were thus not so far apart as hon. Members opposite would ask the Committee to believe, and therefore the Amendment deserved more favourable treatment than had been accorded to it by the Government. The Government had shown themselves to be content with the inchoate, truncated, and inverted solution contained in the Bill, declaring their intention to bring up modifications and amendments to be submitted hereafter. Though this particular Amendment gave small opportunity of dealing with the larger question, he thought that it deserved greater breadth of treatment and a greater effort at argumentative reply than it had received either from the Parliamentary Secretary or the Minister for Education.

SIR W. ROBSON said that he would endeavour to supply from the speeches of the right hon. Gentleman himself arguments against the Amendment. A similar Amendment was brought forward when the Act of 1902 was under discussion, and though the right hon. Gentleman expressed a certain amount of sympathy with its object, he dealt a little more fully with it than he had attempted on this occasion. He thought a sufficient reply to the Amendment was to be found in the expressions which the right hon. Gentleman used four years ago on a similar occasion. Speaking on November 25th, 1902, the right hon. Gentleman said that he had prepared an Amendment not covering all the ground of another proposal which had been made, but covering the particular subject of single school areas. He explained, however, that he had not proceeded with that Amendment for two reasons. He said—

> "One reason was that he felt perfectly confident that any such Amendment moved by the Government would create an enormous amount of controversy and friction inside and outside the House. It was perfectly true, as his noble friend had said, that there was a great body of opinion—of very highly instructed opinion—in the country which desired to see some such solution as this of our religious difficulties. That was absolutely true, but he was convinced that when the great body of the people whom the Amendment concerned and whom his Amendment would have concerned—the country clergy and the Nonconformist ministers all over the kingdom, and that great body of the teaching profession—considered the proposal they would unite in the strongest opposition to it."

The right hon. Gentleman described the objection which the country clergy would have, then what the Nonconformist ministers would say, and he said the teaching profession would unanimously object. The right hon. Gentleman did not base his case on inference or prediction. He went on and gave instances. He mentioned Birmingham. He was not aware, by the way, that any Birmingham Members had given the Committee the benefit of their experience in that debate. The right hon. Gentleman pointed out that in the case of Birmingham the result had been failure. He brought forward practical objections and appealed to experience. Referring to the reasons of the failure at Birmingham, the right hon. Gentleman said that by universal consent the plan did not carry out either the intention or the wishes of its framers. Why? Because there was a great difficulty in getting a sufficient number of voluntary teachers—notwithstanding that Birmingham was a city where public spirit was so abundant—and because the teachers they did get were not able to teach. Teaching was not quite so simple a matter as it was supposed to be by those who brought in Amendments of this kind. It was found that to have at intervals in the school a number of teachers who could not teach was subversive of all discipline. The Amendment, he noticed, was founded on the admission of the gross and scandalous injustice of the existing system. The Leader of the Opposition had indicated that he felt some difficulty in the existing system in single school districts. There were 5,600 districts in England where the Church of England had the only school. It had been said that the last thing they thought of was proselytising. In these debates, however, it had been admitted that religion could not be taught at all unless the children were taught that they should belong to a denomination. That was the injustice this Bill was intended to remedy. When the Government went to the country on this Bill—he did not mean on a dissolution or an election—they would be able to tell the electors what had hitherto been denied—that in Church schools children must be taught to belong to a denomination. It was contended that there was no valuable religion except sectarian religion. He did not believe that. It was of the essence of the Bill that among Protestant communities common worship was possible. There could be no comparison between the effect on the mind of a child of rote learning and the repetition of creeds and the effect of common worship—the common hymn and the common prayer. He thought the Amendment had served its purpose. The alternative proposed by the Opposition had been denounced by their leader as hopelessly impossible, and it was condemned by the experience of Birmingham, so that both leaders of the Tory Party got a certain kind of approach to union on this subject. But it was an alternative which sought to shut out common worship from the school life of Protestant children.

*LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) said he wished to express his deep and sincere regret at the unduly provocative tone of the Solicitor-General's speech, and at the expressions which the hon. and learned Gentleman had used. Nothing said by the noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone could in any sense, whatever, be considered to have given any cause for offence to any Nonconformist. The provocative portions of the Solicitor-General's speech, however, seemed to him to have been deliberately directed against the *bona fides* of the Church of England and the way in which they conducted their worship. [Cries of "No."] Well, that was the impression which was left upon his mind.

SIR W. ROBSON said the impression of the noble Lord was not justified by anything he had said. To suggest that he had made any reflections upon the Church of England could not be justified, and the assertion was entirely without foundation.

*LORD BALCARRES said he could not remember the exact phrase, but it was something about mumbled creeds and the repetition by rote which characterised their services. He considered that was an unduly provocative and offensive attack upon the Church of England. [Cries of "Withdraw," and "Order, order!"] He was perfectly in order in stating that that was his understanding of the speech.

MR. AINSWORTH (Argyllshire) asked whether the noble Lord was in order in using the word "offensive."

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN (Mr. CALDWELL, Lanarkshire, Mid.) said it was not an unparliamentary word.

*LORD BALCARRES said the Solicitor-General had stated that experiments in the direction of the Amendment had been tried at Birmingham and elsewhere and had failed. The hon. and learned Gentleman appeared to think that it was the failure to secure the required number of teachers which was one of the contributory causes of the failure of that experiment. There was, however, no want of teachers in Birmingham, but it was a lack of skill in the teachers which was experienced, and not a lack of numbers. Of course, as had been stated, teaching was not a simple matter, and if in Birmingham a difficulty was found in getting a sufficient number of teachers in regard to schools which might come under Clause 4, how much greater would be the difficulty of securing teachers who must come under Clause 3. It was all very well to say that teachers to give this particular kind of instruction could not be got in Birmingham. It might be true, and he was not very familiar with the details of that particular case. His impression was, however, that in that case teaching was given outside school hours, and the discipline had to be maintained by professional teachers who were brought in for this duty, as a sort of extra to the duties which they were paid to perform. That must have made the experiment unpopular among the teachers. He thought the hon. and learned Member had given the case away when he admitted that the teaching was not an easy matter, when he contended that in places like Birmingham it was impossible to find a sufficient number of properly trained men, and when he said that in urban districts under Clause 3 they were not to have the professional services of the teacher, but must rely upon the volunteer. That would render it all the more difficult for the teaching to be given successfully, and when they reached Clause 7 it would be an argument for giving the privilege to professional teachers to exercise the option of giving this instruction.

*MR. NUSSEY (Pontefract) said he did not find himself in agreement with the Government, and regretted that they did not see their way to accept the Amendment. So long as we had religious teaching in this country the parents of a child had a right to have arrangements made for the kind of religious teaching which they desired. He regretted that the Government did not see their way to deal with that difficulty, and he especially regretted the heated eloquence with which the Solicitor-General had referred to the religious denomination of which he himself was a humble member. In the first place it was said that they would have a pandemonium if all the religious denominations imparted instruction in the village school on a particular day. He did not think there was any substance in that argument, and he ventured to disagree with those who urged that view. The argument as to trust deeds also had no validity, since in 1902 the right hon. Gentleman had made an end of the trust deeds of voluntary schools. Then they were told that the parents did not want this particular kind of instruction. Which statement were they to believe—the statement that the parents did not want it at all, or that their wanting it would cause a pandemonium? They were told that the Amendment was opposed to the best interests of the children, but he thought the best interests of the children were best provided for, so long as there was religious teaching provided in the schools in the creed in which the parents of the children believed and in the creed in which they were educated at home. If the parents of children demanded dogmatic teaching in such cases, he did not think that Cowper-Templeism would advance the cause of religion much, whereas the Amendment proposed a logical solution which would stave off a resort to purely secular education in the schools. For that reason he found himself unable to support the Government in the attitude which they had taken up.

*COLONEL WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, W.) said that like the hon. Gentleman opposite he regretted the heat which the Solicitor-General had imported into the debate. The hon. and learned Gentleman was wrong in his facts, because he represented that the effect of this Amendment would be to do away with that which they on that side of the House valued as much as hon. Members opposite, namely, common worship. The reverse was the case, for the Government had already yielded that when facilities were given for denominational teaching on two days, on the other three days undenominational teaching might be given. What was desired to be taught was that though beliefs might differ, yet common worship was possible; and they should have denominational teaching on two days in the week, and common teaching on all the others. The hon. and learned Gentleman seemed to be oblivious of the progress which the country was making in regard to this question of religious education. They were asked what was the use of making speeches when the Government had made up their minds in regard to what they were going to do, but the value of making them was to be found not in the answers which might be given to them inside the House, but in the answers they got outside the House. At that moment he had in his pockets letters which contained two of strongest pieces of evidence possible that the country was rapidly coming round to the acceptance of universal facilities for all kinds of denominational education in every school. At the general election he obtained considerably more Nonconformist votes than he thought he would, because he consistently preached at his meetings the doctrine that this was not a question of Protestantism. Nor was it. If it were it would be a case of persecution, because it meant that some people would say, "I am a Protestant, and in this matter I will have my way, and those who are not Protestants shall not have theirs." That was persecution of the worst kind. But Protestantism did not enter into this question in any way. If they proved that Romanising doctrines were taught in many more Church schools than hon. Members even in their wildest moments imagined, what had that to do with education? If that was thought, it meant that those who held that view were going to force their own system of education on every body in the country, because they thought it was right. The hon. Member for Mid. Glamorgan said he did not want any facilities. But what about those who did? Were they not to have them? The hon. Member for Mid. Glamorgan said "No, certainly not." But it was a religious question dealing with men's consciences, and was this Committee going to fetter men's consciences because they themselves did not want facilities? The hon. Member for North Camberwell spoke of breaking up the family life in the school, but the school was not a family institution, it was a civil institution. The family was a divine institution with the divine responsibility of parents to children and children to parents.

DR. MACNAMARA: Family life in the schools.

*COLONEL WILLIAMS: But it was not family life, it was school life. He wanted to make school life as harmonious as possible, but they were not going to do it by teaching the children that the parents' religion was all wrong and did not matter. If they gave them Cowper-Temple teaching in the schools they must go further and say that that satisfied them for their school life, and that it ought to satisfy them for the whole of their lives.

DR. MACNAMARA: Who does that?

*COLONEL WILLIAMS said no one, and they did not want to see it done. But they must not talk of family life in the schools. They wanted to teach the children on two days a week that there was such a thing as denominational religion. They wanted them to live together and worship together; but they did not want them taken out of their religion. The true religion that they wanted to teach was not merely definite religion, but the unity of the religion of Christianity, and that though they might differ in the application, it was the same Christianity. If it was real Christianity, and they were to let the children grow up Christians, they must not stop any religion they could give. It was the neglect and carelessness on the part of the parents that they had to fight, and if they got the parents of only five children to say they desired that on two days a week definite religious instruction should be given to their children, for God's sake let them give it. Let them give them instruction on the unity of Christianity on three days a week, but if anybody said they wanted their child taught the doctrines of Roman Catholicism, or any other doctrine, let the child be taught what its parents desired. Let the parents have their facilities in the name of freedom. That was the true principle of freedom and a stepping-stone to a real universal system. Every child in every school should have exactly the same opportunities of receiving undenominational teaching, because in that way they would strengthen what they all desired to strengthen, namely, the Christian religion which, although they differed in the application of it, was the same Christian religion in which they all worshipped.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said the Amendment seemed so reasonable on the face of it that they might have considerable difficulty in voting against it. But, as often happened, other countries gave them a clue to what it really meant. In Ireland they had a system of education founded on combined secular and separate religious instruction. Under that system it was competent to teach all forms of religion as the parents of the children might desire. What had the result been? It had resulted in this, that the whole system, designed to be a national system, had developed into an open denominational system, and each of the sects did not keep its religion in the schools, but had got a school for itself, with the result that there were small schools, and inefficient because they were small. The whole system had broken down, and it was now frankly denominational. He agreed with the hon. Member for North Camberwell that it was pretty much like introducing pandemonium into the schools. The Irish people found that out very quickly: each sect built its own school, and hundreds of those schools were inefficient because they were small. He would be no party to hunting Christianity out of the schools, but then what was this that he heard about Cowper-Temple religion? Did not the last speaker believe that the Cowper-Temple system at all events was practical Christianity? Were not the foundations of Christianity taught under the Cowper-Temple system? After all, what were they going to teach children beyond the foundations of Christianity? What did they know about Creeds? He wished they could be prevented from learning them till they were very much older. He would vote against the Amendment simply because the same system had broken down in Ireland, and he believed it would introduce pandemonium in England.

*MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent) said if they only considered what the proposition amounted to, they would see that it was absolutely impossible to carry it out. It meant that probably one person, and very often not more than two, and occasionally perhaps three, would be able practically to disarrange the whole of the ordinary teaching in the school by the demand for special facilities. Let them imagine the difficulty of allotting the time. Supposing four or five claims were made for special facilities in the school—because there was no reason, if this Amendment was passed, why the Wesleyans and the Unitarians, and the Methodists and the Baptists and everybody else should not make a claim. Many of the schools affected were one-roomed schools, and he could picture in his mind's eye how they were going to mark them out, this the Baptist corner and that the Wesleyan corner, and another the Roman Catholic corner. It was only necessary to imagine it, to see how utterly ridiculous and confusing such a practice would be.

MR. PAUL (Northampton): And the Atheists.

*MR. WARD: Yes, if there was a demand for atheistic teaching that would also be included. How the system could be managed he could not for the life of him imagine. Under these circumstances he thought the Attorney-General was absolutely justified in his criticism.

*MR. NIELD (Middlesex, Ealing) said he was glad to follow the hon. Member who had just resumed his seat for he had addressed a meeting of 5,000 Churchmen at Hanley adjoining Stoke-upon-Trent and an open-air meeting of 2,000 people, at both of which meetings the Bill had been discussed and resolutions passed without a single dissentient voice denouncing and disapproving of its provisions. At any rate Churchmen of North Staffordshire were resolved to give this Bill their uncompromising opposition.

MR. WARD: A few days after that I addressed a meeting in the Market Hall, Longton, of about 10,000 people.

*MR. NIELD said he was of course without any information as to the meeting referred to by the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent, but none the less those 7,000 people whom he addressed might be trusted to do their duty in regard to this Bill when the opportunity arose. He regretted exceedingly the bitter and sarcastic speech of the Solicitor-General. The Amendment did nothing more than give parents the right to be heard. They were asking for religious freedom for the parents. In the spirit in which they had been met by the Government to-day they could hope for nothing, but he believed that if they could appeal to the country the religious freedom which they desired would not be refused. A prominent supporter of the Government and a loyal Churchman recently told him that he opposed this Bill, although he was an earnest Liberal, because it departed from every principle of Liberalism, and from the elementary principles of liberty. That was the foundation upon which he based his opposition to this Bill. [Cries of "Question."] It was the question whether the parents of fifteen children attending any public elementary school should have religious teaching——

THE CHAIRMAN: That is not the Amendment. The proposal under discussion relates to transferred voluntary schools.

*MR. NIELD said he was dealing with the principle as to whether the parents of fifteen children attending any transferred voluntary school were to have an opportunity of saying whether their children should be allowed to have special facilities. If this Bill was supposed to give religious freedom it could only be religious freedom for the parents, because the children were not old enough to understand religious questions, nor could it be supposed that they should be called upon to make any such election. Surely it was only the barest justice that this concession should be made. If the country was asked to pronounce upon the question whether it was considered satisfactory that the schools should have these facilities for only two days a week, he had no doubt whatever as to the conclusion they would arrive at.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs) said that upon this question he was somewhat astonished at the triple alliance between the Catholics and the Church and the secularists. It was true that adversity made strange bedfellows, but it was very significant that the Church and the secularists, who were opposite as the poles, should be combining against religious instruction. Both religious parties in his own constituency were agreed in urgently desiring to have religious instruction.

LORD R. CECIL: This Amendment does not provide for the abolition of religious instruction.

*MR. REES said it made religious instruction impracticable, and it always seemed to him that the noble Lord's arguments proceeded upon wrong lines historically. His claim was that whatever was conceded to the Catholics should be conceded to the Anglican Church. [Cries of "Why not?"] The Catholic case was that the Bible should be interpreted by a priest. Was that the case of the Church of England?

MR. J. WARD, on a point of order, asked whether the subjects which the hon. Member for Montgomery Boroughs was discussing had anything at all to do with the Amendment before the Committee.

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the matter is decidedly wide.

*MR. REES said that almost every other speaker had gone on lines wide enough to embrace the question he alluded to, but he would leave it out. It seemed to him to be absolutely impracticable to do what the noble Lord desired by this Amendment. How was it possible to carry out these religious facilities? He felt sometimes that any man who had spent most of his life abroad was rather disqualified from dealing with the ethical and religious aspects of these questions in the House. He had, however, taken considerable pains to investigate the kind of religion given under the Cowper-Temple Clause, and after visiting numerous schools he confessed that he thought Cowper-Templeism was a most excellent foundation for religion, such as any Christian of any persuasion might allow his child to receive in its tender years. He thought denominational instruction upon two days a week was sufficient for all practical purposes, and would give a foundation for religion such as the Church of England, the Free Churches, and in fact any Christian Church might accept.

THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member appears to be speaking upon the religious teaching which is to be given, and that is not in order.

*MR. REES claimed that the Free Churches were as sincere with regard to religious instruction as the Church of England, and it might be taken for granted that there was equal sincerity on both sides. The case for Liberal Churchmen had been dealt with by the hon. Member for Northampton. He might say that he had received a good many resolutions from rural deaneries and other Church associations in his constituency, and he could not honestly say that they were satisfied with the Bill, and regarded the agitation against this measure as being purely ecclesiastical, as the hon. Member had claimed.

THE CHAIRMAN: I must warn the hon. Member that he is becoming highly irrelevant.

*MR. REES said his constituency was determined to have religious instruction. It would be different if they could say with Tacitus "Deorum injurias Diis curœ," but the country would not take that view, and as it wanted religious teaching, practicable religious teaching should be given, and he would support this section of the Bill as it stood and oppose the Amendment.

MR. BIRRELL expressed the hope that the Amendment might be withdrawn, or at any rate a vote taken upon it, in order that the rest of the time at their disposal might be devoted to the further consideration of the clause. He hoped that the noble Lord would not feel that he was speaking disrespectfully of his Amendment, but the point had already been dealt with by the Government in a previous debate, and there could be no alteration in regard to the position of the Government in this matter.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 78; Noes, 285. (Division List No. 141.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur 0
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Hervey, F. W. F (Bury S. Edm'ds)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Kennaway Rt Hon. Sir J. H.
Kenyon-Slaney Rt. Hn. Col. W.
King, Sir H. Seymour (Hull)
Lamont, Norman
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Masterman, C. F. G.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Nield, Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Partington, Oswald
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Rt. Hn J. G (Oxf'd. Univ.)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Lord Robert Cecil and Mr. Carlile.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, J. A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John E. (Somerset)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John W. (Devonport)
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hn. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F (Ramsey)
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen-(Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Findlay, Alexander
Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hn. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r.)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson

Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M.(Aberdeen, W.
Henry, Charles S.
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman(Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, HughCecil (St. Pancras, E)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy (Essex,Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hn. David
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, JM (Falkirk B'ghs.
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampt'n
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Price, Robert J.(Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford,E.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendal, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W.Monmth
Richards,T.F.(Wolverh'mpton)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Sir G.Scott(Bradf'd)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E.(Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edw. (Salisbury)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas,DavidAlfred(Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (StokeuponTrent)
Ward, W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilkie, Alexander
Wiliams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williamson, A. (Elgin & Nairn)
Wilson, John (Durham Mid)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELELRS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. J. W. WILSON (Worcestershire, N.) moved that the words at the end of Sub-section (1) limiting the special religious instruction to two mornings a week should be omitted, and that the Sub-section should simply enable children whose parents so wished to "receive such instruction." The object of the Amendment was to open up the question whether "special religious instruction' was to be given on one, two, three, four, or five days a week. There was up and down the country a certain amount of feeling of hardship with regard to the limitation of days in the clause, and personally he should like to hear the views of the Government on the question why the matter could not be left perfectly open to the local education authority and the trustees to decide the number of days. If that were done, probably the result would be that in a great majority of the schools not more than one or two days would be taken. He thought that in many Anglican schools Cowper-Temple teaching would be welcomed. If they had accepted the Amendment proposed by the hon. Member for East Marylebone in regard to all schools, whether denominational or provided, it would have been desirable to limit to one or two the days on which religious teaching of a special character should be permitted. But if it were confined to the transferred schools, he could see very little risk of difficulty arising if the question were left entirely open. In most Church schools the removal of the limitation would not lead to the extension of the teaching. But he would not force co-religionists who now gave special religious instruction oftener, and desired to continue it, or who felt that they would be at a disadvantage compared with another Church which under Clause 4 would give such instruction every day in the week, to become, or threaten to become, passive resisters on account of this limitation.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 34, to leave out from the word 'receive,' to the end of the Sub-section, and insert the words 'such instruction.'"—(*Mr. J. W. Wilson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'that instruction' stand part of the Clause."

MR. BIRRELL said the Amendment would remove the restriction by which facilities for religious instruction were limited to two mornings a week, and allow it to be given on every day of the week. It was quite impossible for the Government to accede to that. They had given the matter full consideration, and two mornimgs a week were selected, because the result of their inquiries showed that that was the maximum amount of such instruction customarily given in the Church schools of the country. That was no reflection upon those schools. It was simply an educational limitation prescribed, after long experience, as being a sufficient number of days for catechetical and strictly denominational instruction. He ventured to say that these were the methods and principles on which Church of England schools had heen carried on for a hundred years, and the Government proposed to adhere to their ancient usage.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the speech of the right hon. Gentleman was hardly satisfactory, for reasons which he would at once appreciate. What the right hon. Gentleman appeared to have done was to take the average of the practice in the Church of England schools, and to say that that average was to be obligatory upon each unit on which the average was taken. He saw no *rationale* in that principle at all. It might be true that, for reasons purely educational, and also for other reasons which might attach to the fact that in the Church of England schools there was a great anxiety to meet the wishes of parents who did not belong to the Church of England, there was a large number of schools, perhaps a majority, in which the catechism was taught on only two days a week; but on what principle they were going to take that average as the obligatory and statutory maximum he failed to understand. But before he pressed that question, he should like to ask the Minister for Education a question upon the interpretation of his own provision. The right hon. Gentleman and the hon. Gentleman who had moved the Amendment appeared to think that only on two days a week was any teaching of the Church Catechism permissible. On the other hand, the view of many of his hon. friends was that "two days" meant two days for any given child—that no child in any transferred school should be taught denominational religion on more than two days a week. That was an eminently more reasonable proposition than the proposition which the hon. Gentleman who moved the Amendment seemed to think was embodied in the Bill, and which was countenanced by the Minister for Education viz., that the denominational teacher should not be permitted on more than two days a week to deal with the subject at all. He asked the Committee to observe the gross and palpable injustice of that last provision. In the voluntary schools there were children of all ages from three or four to fourteen or fifteen. Manifestly the same education of any kind, denominational or undenominational, was not suitable to children of very tender years, as might be suitable to a child of ten, twelve, or fourteen. Therefore, if religion, or anything else, was to be taught to the best advantage, the children must be divided into classes selected according to the age, progress, and intellectual aptitudes of the children. If only two days a week were allowed for denominational teaching to the children at school, it was evident that the denominational teacher would be unable to have small classes according to age and capacity. If they limited the teaching to two days a week in schools where Church children were in a majority, the classes would necessarily be large, and composed of children of different ages, to whom different teaching ought to be given, and that would be quite arbitrarily and most cruelly to diminish the efficiency of the religious teaching in those schools. These were two quite different policies. He thought the first—the most tolerant and the broadest minded—was that which the Government intended to adopt, but evidently the hon. Gentleman who moved the Amendment did not think they meant to adopt it, and he wished to put the Bill in a far more intelligible shape. It did not appear to have occurred to the Minister for Education that the interpretation they had put on the Bill could be the true one, but, whether it was the interpretation which a lawyer would put upon it, or not, it was the interpretation which a statesman ought to desire to put upon it. It did no injury to any human being, it did not add to the power of any denomination, and it did not injure the children of any other denomination. All it did was to permit the organisation of religious teaching in voluntary schools to be conducted on the principle accepted in regard to every other kind of teaching. It enabled classes to be formed according to age, and in such a manner that they could be taught with real advantage by a competent teacher. To limit the possibility of denominational teaching to two days a week, and to compel the teacher to have one large class for the advanced child of fourteen or fifteen and the child of three or four, who ought hardly to be permitted to be at school at all, was surely one of the most irrational, intolerant, and cruel provisions that could be imagined to introduce into a Bill. He hoped they would be assured that, by a slip, the Minister for Education had misunderstood his own Bill, or, if that were not the case, that he was prepared to make his Bill what they on the Opposition side of the House had conceived it to be.

MR. BIRRELL said that the words of the clause were "afford those facilities by enabling children whose parents wished them to receive religious instruction of that special character to receive that instruction on not more than two mornings in the week."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Hear, hear.

MR. BIRRELL said he did not dispute the view taken by the right hon. Gentleman. His speech in reply to the Amendment was based on the assumption that denominational teaching was to be given on two days of the week, and two days only. But he quite admitted that the wording of the clause which he had quoted enabled religious instruction to be given, in order to meet the necessities of a school, on more than two days, provided that it was given to no child on more than two.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: In other words, there may be denominational teaching on five days in the voluntary schools provided that no individual child received religious teaching on more than two days.

MR. CAVE said he would like it to be clearly understood whether the owners of voluntary schools could stipulate that denominational teaching must be given on two mornings of the week.

*MR. PERKS said he was bound to say that the interpretation put upon this clause by the Minister for Education was a revelation to many on the Ministerial side of the House. Sometimes there were extraordinary pitfalls in those subtly-drawn clauses which were a perplexity to plain men of business. But he was sure that the view which the Minister had taken of this particular clause was not the view which prevailed in the country. The view of this particular clause taken at large in the country was that simple Bible teaching was to be the ordinary religious instruction in the schools, and that, if anything more was required of a sectarian, dogmatic, or ecclesiastical nature, it was to be given outside the school hours. [OPPOSITION cries of "No."] Whether that extra denominational teaching was to be allowed within the school hours, was a question which would have to be fought later on. All that was to be given in ordinary school hours was simple Bible instruction, or Cowper-Temple instruction, or whatever other name they might give it. At present there was no provision in the Bill to provide that this special instruction under Clauses 3 and 4, be it of a sectarian, dogmatic, or ecclesiastical nature, was to be given in school hours.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is accepted by the Government.

*MR. PERKS said he did not understand that the Government had made any such promise, but he would not argue that point now, as it did not arise, but the contention of the Leader of the Opposition was that on every morning of the week a minister of religion should be admitted to the schools to give religious instruction if the parents demanded it. Then, what became of the unfortunate parents of the children of dissenting communions? It was perfectly clear that the interpretation put upon the clause by the Minister for Education, that in the case of every National school which might be transferred the parish clergyman might enter it on every morning of the week to give religious instruction, was not the interpretation put upon it by the country. He had taken out the figures of some schools in his own division of Lincolnshire; and he found that out of sixteen schools, in only two did the parson come in to give religious instruction on two mornings a week; in three schools he went in on one morning a week, and into the remaining eleven he never went at all.

MR. BIRRELL said that his hon. friend who had just spoken was in error, and therefore he wished to reply at once. They were now dealing with Clause 3, which was confined to the trust of the particular school, and no other person was to be permitted within the walls of that school except the person who was to carry out the teaching of the denomination or trust to which it belonged. If it was a Wesleyan school no one but a person instructing in the doctrine of John Wesley would have any access to that school at all.

*MR. PERKS: He would not do it.

MR. BIRRELL: Then they might eliminate all outsiders from their consideration, because the only person who would have access to the school was the person who was qualified to give denominational teaching of the denomination to which the school belonged. Therefore, they got rid of the constant incursion of rival religions. Then another question arose which, in his opinion, was a matter of pure business dealing between the persons who made these bargains and the persons who were entitled to the benefit of the Bill. What was to be done in very large schools? In his own district of London there was one school with about 1,300 children. Supposing this school came under the facilities granted by Clause 3, how was the teaching to be carried out? The children were entitled to be taught the tenets of the denomination to which the school belonged, and the children were to have it at the expense of the rates on not more than two mornings a week if their parents wished it. If a hard and fast rule were to be laid down that every child in that school was to have denominational teaching on the same two mornings in the week, whether the number was 400 or 1,300, the teachers would not be forthcoming and the facilities could not be afforded. That would be denying to these children the rights and privileges to which they were entitled. He did not wish to make this a controversial point. He wished hon. Gentlemen would ask themselves, on this clause still more than on Clause 4, whether they wished these facilities to be afforded. They were facilities of a most limited description. The Government had been invited to extend them, but had rejected the voice of the tempter, and had limited this to Clause 3. By this clause, all children whose parents wished them to be taught the religion of the denomination to which the school belonged should have it on not more than two mornings a week. That was pre-eminently a matter for arrangement between the owners and the authorities when they took over the school. It was only fair that it should be understood that these facilities were to be allowed if the parents wished it, and if the size of the school rendered it impossible that all the children should receive that denominational teaching on the same two mornings they were not thereby to be deprived of having it. For Heaven's sake let hon. Members make no mistake about this matter, which really was not open to the consequences anticipated by the last speech.

MR. J. W. WILSON said that after what had taken place he thought he had better ask leave to withdraw his Amendment.

THE CHAIRMAN: Is it your pleasure that the Amendment be withdrawn? [Loud cries of "No."]

MR. STUART WORTLEY said that as one of those who had said "no" when the proposal was put that the

Amendment should be withdrawn he wished to explain why he had taken that course. He thought it was obvious that this limit of two days was perfectly mischievous and would take away from the local authority the freedom and liberty which the Government proclaimed as the keynote of their policy. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would extend the liberty to be given in regard to the time of religious instruction and would see that by making this small concession he would get rid of a large portion of the ill-will engendered by the Bill.

Mr. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) said he was strongly in favour of the facilities given by the Bill under Clauses 3 and 4, but he was not in favour of them as interpreted by the right hon. Gentleman. The point he wanted to make clear was what was going to happen to the rural schools, because he represented a rural constituency. Was there to be a right of entry on the part of every single teacher of every denomination to give denominational teaching on every day of the week? If the public were going to pay for the teaching of denominational religion on five days a week, which was the only interpretation he could put upon the declarations of the right hon. Gentleman, he could not support the facilities. He hoped, however, that the right hon. Gentleman would say that his interpretation was a wrong one.

Mr. BIRRELL said that it was entirely a question of honestly giving effect to these facilities. If it were not necessary to allow the clergyman a right of entry on every day in the week it certainly would not be allowed. It was a matter of machinery. In the great majority of the rural schools there would be no difficulty in confining this "facilities" teaching to two named days in the week; but if it could not be given reasonably and properly on two days the time would have to be extended.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that he agreed that it was a matter of machinery. But it rested with the denominational teachers, and with them alone, to determine the matter. ["No."] This was not to be a matter of arrangement, or one of the points to be bargained about between the managers and the local authorities. It rested with the denomination alone to determine how the teaching was to be given—["No"]—whether the two days teaching to be given to each child should be concentrated into two days of the week, or whether it should be distributed over five days of the week, although no single child might receive it on more than two days of the week. ["No."] That was what they contemplated in the Bill, and that was what they approved of.

Mr. BIRRELL: I do not agree at all. The right hon. Gentleman's interpretation comes to this, that if the denomination chooses to say they cannot teach twenty, thirty, forty, or fifty children on two days they are to be entitled to come in on every day. That I entirely dispute. It is a matter of machinery and a matter for the local authority.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The local authority? On what words in the clause does the right hon. Gentleman rely for an interpretation which is not the interpretation he gave ten minutes ago, and is absolutely inconsistent with the plain meaning of the English language?

Mr. DILLON said he only rose for the purpose of pointing out that it must now have dawned on the minds of some hon. Gentlemen opposite that the time allocated to Clauses 3 and 4 was not quite sufficient.

SIR W. ROBSON said one was disposed to ask the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition where in the clause he found the words empowering the denominational teachers, without any reference to the local authority, to impose its own idea of the number of days necessary to comply with the provisions of the clause. The clause said the local authorities should afford facilities to enable children to receive, on not more than two days a week, the religious instruction they required. The denomination was not entitled to select and classify the children themselves, whether the local authority liked it or not, so as to spread the denominational instruction over five days. He reminded the Committee, moreover, that the clause was founded on the experience of existing schools. In schools as they now existed it had been found in general sufficient to give the Catechism teaching on two mornings in the week, and that covered all the children in the school.

LORD R. CECIL confessed that he was utterly unable to accept the Solicitor-General's explanation, and regarded the construction put upon the clause by the Solicitor-General as involving a serious infringement of the liberty of the subject. The net result of the interpretation of the Solicitor-General was that a local authority which was hostile to the giving of religious instruction would be able to insist upon what instruction should be given.

MR. PAUL advised the President to drop a clause which nobody understood, nobody supported, and to which everybody objected.

*MR. LEIF JONES thought it was a revelation to both sides of the House that the interpretation suggested by the right hon. Gentleman opposite could be put upon this clause. He could only say that if that was the interpretation to which his right hon. friend intended to give effect he must alter the clause by omitting the words "on not more than two days a week." He defied anyone to say, if religious teaching went on five days a week, that the Bill did not "enable" the children to receive religious teaching on those five days.

MR. BIRRELL said that if the clause meant what the right hon. Gentleman opposite thought it meant, he wanted it made perfectly clear that it did not mean that. It did mean what he had already indicated, but he would take care on Report that the interpretation put upon the clause by the right hon. Gentleman was impossible.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: To what speech of the right hon. Gentleman is he going to make his Bill conform? I am in the recollection of the whole House when I say that the interpretation which in unmistakable language I put on the clause was endorsed by the Minister in charge.

And, it being half-past Ten of the Clock, the Chairman proceeded, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 18th June, to put forthwith the Question on the Amendment already proposed from the Chair.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 352; Noes, 159. (Division List No. 142.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)

Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, JosephA.(Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham
Beck. A, Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,JohnWilliams(Devonp'rt
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex,Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black,ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)
Bolton,T.D.(Derbyshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T.(Cheshire)
Bryce,Rt.Hn. James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn.SydneyChas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T.Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C.H(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal

Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cross, Alexander
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies,David(Montgomery,Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N

Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea,HughCecil(St.Pancras, E.)
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex, Harwich
Lever, W.H.(Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall(Lincoln)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)

Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W.D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk, Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price,RobertJohn(Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thos. (W. Monmt'h)
Richards, T.F, (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas.E.(Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W, C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward(Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,SirA.(Glamorganshire)
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (StokeuponTrent)
Ward, W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, JohnCathart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williamson, A. (Elgin & Nairn)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hn. C.H.W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, .P W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse,Lord(Norfolk,Mid)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William(Cork, N.E.)
Acland,Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F
Ambrose, Robert
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon.SirH.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, RtHn.A.J.(CityLond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. (Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach, Hn.MichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hon.VictorC.W
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Coates, E. Feetham(Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dillon, John
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hammond, John
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Hervey,F.W.F.(BurySEdm'ds)
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, HenryStaveley(Staff'sh.)
Hogan, Michael
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Joyce, Michael

Kennaway, Rt.Hn. Sir John H.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col.W
Kilbride, Denis
King, SirHenrySeymour(Hull)
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, JohnThrogmorton
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert(Gravesend)
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Power, Patrick Joseph
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John Galway (East)
Rothschild, Hon. LionelWalter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool,Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Stanley,Hon. Arthur Ormskirk)
Starkey, John R.
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson,W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, J.W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Rawlinson, and Mr. Evelyn Cecil.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS, on a point of order, said that one of the tellers in the last division, the hon. Member for Aston Manor failed for several minutes to proceed to the door of the lobby, and hon. Members were kept waiting. That meant that the division was lengthened very much, and he wished to know if that did not constitute a disobedience of the rules of the House, which laid down that a teller should proceed at once to the lobby.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY asked if there was any rule of the House under which the tellers had to proceed to the door in order to conduct the division under the new system.

THE CHAIRMAN: In reply to the last question, I do not think that there is any order to that effect. What occurred in this case was that there was some little misunderstanding as to the tellers, and the consequence was that one of the tellers for some time did not go to the door, but he eventually went to the door.

The CHAIRMAN thereupon proceeded to put forthwith the question, "That the clause stand part of the Bill."

Question agreed to.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey): I move that you, Mr. Chairman, do now report Progress.

SIR E. CARSON: May I ask why we should report Progress?

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY said he was quite willing to withdraw the Motion if the Opposition desired to proceed now with Clause 4.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. Member withdraw the Motion?

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY: I am entirely in the hands of hon. Gentlemen opposite if they are anxious to proceed with Clause 4. I understand that they are not anxious to do so.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again."—(*Mr. George Whiteley.*)

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 417; Noes, 101. (Division List No. 143.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William(Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allan, A.Acland(Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hon.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey(Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,John Emmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beaumont, Hubert(Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,JohnWilliams(Devonp'rt
Benn,W.(T'w'Harmlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H.(Essex,Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black,Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bolton,T. D.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner,Sir John T.(Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.HnRichard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David(Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan,Charles Joseph
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,Major E.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wifrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis

Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N.(Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williamson, A. (Elgin and Nairn
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfold, Mid)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,RtHon.Sir.H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring,Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T.(Londonderry,N.)
Beach,Hn. Michael HughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson,'Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Coates, E. Feetham(Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collins,Sir WmJ.(S.Pancras,W.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Captain James(Down,E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dixon-Hartland,Sir FredDixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hervey,F.W.F. (BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley(Staff'sh.)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
King,Sir Henry Seymour(Hull)
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Long,Col.,Charles W.(Evesham
Long,Rt. Hn.Walter(Dublin,S)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,John Throgmorton
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Ratcliffe, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rothschild,Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sandys,Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Smith,F. E. (Liverpool,Walton)
Stanley,Hon. Arthur(Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Talbot,Rt. Hn.J.G(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson,W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS BILL [LORDS].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Clause 1:—

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION (CHILDREN) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE [EXPENSES].

Committee to consider of authorising the charge on the Consolidated Fund of such sums as may be required to make good any liabilities incurred by the public trustee, or his officers, appointed under any Act of the present session to provide for the appointment of a public trustee, and of authorising the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the salaries or remuneration of the public trustee and his officers, and of other expenses incurred by them in pursuance of such Act (King's Recommendation signified), To-morrow.—(*Mr. George Whiteley.*)

LABOURERS (IRELAND) [ADVANCES].

Committee to consider of authorising the repayment to the Ireland Development Grant, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of such sums as may be advanced in any financial year out of that fund, in pursuance of any Act of the present session to amend the law relating to labourers in Ireland, and to make provision with respect to the application of portion of the Ireland Development Grant (King's Recommendation signified), To-morrow.—(*Mr. George Whiteley.*)

Adjourned at nine minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 21*st* *June,* 1906.

The Lord Wigan (*E. Crawford*) took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with: Buckhaven, Methill, Innerleven Burgh Extension.

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [H.L.]. Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Dowlais Gas Bill. Reported, with Amendments.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill. Committed.

Lancashire Electric Power Bill. Committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

St. Pancras Electricity Bill; Tottenham and Edmonton Gas Bill; Metropolitan District Railway Bill. Committed.

Kettering Water Bill. Committed for Monday next.

Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill; North West London Railway Bill; Bristol Corporation Bill. Committed: The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill. Committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill. Committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COLONIES: ANNUAL.

No. 484. Bermuda (Report for 1905).

No. 485. Hong Kong (Report for 1905).

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3642.	China (Chinkiang).
No. 3643.	United States (Hawaii).
No. 3644.	Spain (Malaga).
No. 3645.	France (Society Islands).
No. 3646.	Japan (North Formosa).
No. 3647.	Italy (Lombardy).

Presented (by Command) and ordered to lie on the Table.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS FOUNDATION.

Statement of the estimated income and expenditure of Greenwich Hospital and of Travers' Foundation, for the year 1906–07.

CIVIL LIST PENSIONS.

List of all pensions granted during the year ended March 31st, 1906, and payable under the provisions of section 9 (1) of the Civil List Act, 1901.

SUPERANNUATION ACT.

Treasury Minute, dated June 16th, 1906, respecting the addition of years to be assigned for pensions purposes to certain offices under the Board of Education.

FINANCE.

Finance accounts of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, for the financial year ended March 31st, 1906.

UNEMPLOYED WORKMEN ACT, 1905.

Regulations made by the Local Government Board under the Act, as to the form of financial statement of distress committees having the powers of a central body established under the Act.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

EDUCATION.

Petitions in favour of maintenance of existing religious education in Church of

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

England schools:—Of ratepayers in Hardwicke —— Ten Drayton. Of parents of children attending school at Bassingbourne.

Read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

POLICE (SUPERANNUATION) BILL.

Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to.

FINANCE BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for Second Reading read.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2ª.—(*The Marquess of Ripon.*)

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN: My Lords, it is not my intention to detain your Lordships at any length with observations upon the Second Reading of this Bill, because in the first place, I am cognisant of the constitutional limitations which govern our action in this matter, and in the second place, I have no desire whatever to oppose the Second Reading of the Budget Bill of the year. It was admitted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in introducing the Budget that it was in the nature of a provisional financial arrangement, and that we must wait until next year for the complete financial policy of His Majesty's Government. That was a very proper and natural suggestion, and I do not in the least complain of it; but precisely on that account I desire to make some observations on one particular point of the financial arrangements of the country—namely, the present position of the income-tax.

The estimated product of the income-tax for the present year is £31,250,000, at the rate of a shilling in the pound. The Chancellor of the Exchequer made some very forcible and true observations on the present position of the income-tax. He said—

> "An income-tax at a uniform rate of a shilling in the pound in time of peace is impossible to justify and difficult to defend. It is a burden upon the trade of the country, which, in the long run, affects not only profits but wages; and it presses with extreme and peculiar severity on that large class of the community with incomes from £700 to £2,000 a year, who pay it in addition to their full share of taxation on articles of consumption; and it tends to destroy, or, at any rate, to contract a most readily available reserve on which the State can draw in a sudden and unforeseen emergency."

I wish entirely to associate myself with those sentiments. When I had the honour to be Chancellor of the Exchequer I did my best to carry out those views. When at the commencement of the South African war, I had to look about for increased sources of taxation, besides increasing the income-tax, and besides adding to the indirect taxation upon alcohol, tea, and tobacco, I induced Parliament to assent to three new and important indirect taxes—the duties on sugar, corn and coal. Thus I endeavoured to divide fairly the cost of the war between the comparatively small class of the community liable to direct taxation through the income-tax, and the people as a whole. But I find no attempt whatever on the part of the present Government to carry into effect the wholesome doctrine laid down by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in regard to the income-tax.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that to reduce the income-tax by a penny would cost him £2,600,000, and that the means at his disposal were insufficient for the purpose. The right hon. Gentleman budgeted for a surplus of £3,074,000; and in my belief it would have been perfectly possible for him, even if he had considered it necessary, as he did consider it necessary, to add £500,000 to the unprecedented amount which this year will go to the repayment of debt, to reduce the income-tax by a penny, because the loss to the revenue by such a reduction would not amount in the first year to the total yield of a penny in one year. But instead of reducing the income-tax, the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposed to reduce the tea duty by a penny in the pound, and to abolish the coal tax as from November 1st. As to reduction of the tea duty, I would only say that no one for many years has touched the tea duty by less than twopence in the pound, and for the simple reason that the poor consumers of tea, upon whom the tea duty falls infinitely more heavily than upon the larger consumers, are only able to buy their tea in such small quantities that a reduction by a penny can hardly by any possibility reach them.

As to the coal duty, I have never argued that it was free from objections. Every tax has its objections; and there were objections, not merely theoretical, to imposing an export duty on any article of production in this country. But the result of the coal duty has not been what its most vigorous opponents prophesied at the time of its imposition. They said that the imposition of 1s. duty would lead to the closing of mines in this country, and would practically lead to many ships being deprived of outward cargoes altogether, and therefore being laid up. The picture drawn of the terrible state to which some parts of England and Scotland would be reduced owing to the imposition of the coal duty was a very lurid one indeed. But what has happened? There has been, I believe, and I think it fair to state it, some reduction in our exports of medium quality coal to the markets of North Europe; but, with regard to our general export of coal, that has continued to increase since the imposition of the duty, though not at so great a rate as before.

Considering that the duty produced £2,000,000 a year, and that the effects of it did not bear out the prophecies that had been made, I must say I believe it would be extremely difficult for any Chancellor of the Exchequer to discover any indirect tax which would produce more to the revenue at less cost to the industry of this country. But that is not all. In some respects the repeal of that duty will be a loss to this country. An instance has come to my knowledge in which a London company, which has to purchase large quantities of Welsh smokeless coal, directly the announcement of the repeal of the coal duty was made had notice from the contractors that in any renewed contract a shilling a ton more would be charged for the coal. And why? Because the contractors expected that by the repeal of this tax the foreign demand for this class of coal would be so much increased that the price might be safely raised to the home consumers.

I am old fashioned enough, in spite of the Report of the Royal Commission on Coal Supplies, to believe that it is not to the interest of this country to encourage the export of smokeless Welsh coal, which is of such enormous value to the Navy as well as to the industry of this country. But I entirely admit that both in this matter and in the reduction of the tea duty the proposals of the Chancellor of the Exchequer commended themselves generally to the House of Commons. It is possible that if instead of making these proposals the Chancellor of the Exchequer had proposed to reduce the income-tax, he would not have had the assent of the present House of Commons. But the important point is this—that having £3,000,000 to deal with, and being able thereby to reduce a shilling income-tax by a penny, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has found it necessary instead to reduce taxation on tea and coal, which I think no one can say pressed really hardly on the people.

What sort of hope does that give to the income-tax payer, to whose condition the Chancellor of the Exchequer referred with so much sympathy, of any reduction on the present rate at any future time? Of course, it may be said that it is hoped by His Majesty's present Government that there will be a material reduction in the expenditure of the country in future years. I can conceive one quarter in which there might be a considerable reduction. The Chancellor of the Exchequer quoted some remarkable figures in his Budget speech with respect to the increase in recent years of the cost of the Army and Navy. I will quote them again, as I believe that the attention of the country cannot be too much directed to the remarkable nature of these figures. The right hon. Gentleman said that in the year 1896–97 the Army, the numbers of which were voted at 156,000 men, cost £18,270,000 in the Estimates, whereas in 1906–7 the numbers of men voted were 204,000 and the cost £29,800,000 showing an increase of 30 per cent. in the men and of 63 per cent. in their cost. Those are very remarkable figures, and they are even more remarkable when compared with the Navy. The numbers of men voted for the Navy in this year, as compared with 1896–97, have increased by 41 per cent., but the cost has only increased 43 per cent. Does not that give us—I am bound to say it gives me—a *prima facie* ground for believing that there must be great waste in our Army expenditure, which is susceptible of material reduction without loss to the efficiency of our Army?

But what is there to be said on the other side? Supposing His Majesty's present Government are able materially to reduce the Army Estimates without injuring the efficiency of the Army, there must certainly in the future be an increase under the head of works both in the Army and in the Navy Estimates if they carry out the policy which they have declared, and on which, I hope I may add without offence, they are very much disposed to plume themselves. In 1895 Lord Rosebery's Government initiated the policy of providing for the charges of military and naval works by a system of loans for a term not exceeding thirty years. That policy was continued by the late Government, and the total addition to the debt incurred by that policy is considerable. But the policy was necessary. Necessary works had been allowed to fall behind through mistaken ideas of economy, and the increase in the size of our ships, the increase in the number of soldiers and sailors, necessitated exceptional expenditure in providing new dockyards in different parts of the world, in barracks, hospitals, training grounds for soldiers, and in permanent works, which in our judgment was more fairly spread over a period of thirty years than imposed on the taxpayers of the present day. There is no doubt that the system has its faults, for probably there have been instances in which it led to unnecessary expenditure on ill-considered schemes and money has been wasted in that way. But if you abandon it there is this danger on the other side, that for the sake of economy and in order to diminish the Army and Navy Estimates of the year, the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the day will reduce the item of works in his Estimates to a point which is inconsistent with the efficient maintenance of the Army and Navy. That was done in previous years, and I hope that it will not be done again. But if it is not done, the item of Works in the Army and Navy Estimates will show a considerable increase in future years.

But can anyone who has watched the action of the House of Commons throughout this session believe that it will be possible for any Government, however strong their desire for economy, to make any very great reduction in the expenditure of the country? Resolutions have been passed one after another in the present House of Commons in favour of adding largely to the expenditure on elementary education, which has already increased 60 per cent. in the last ten years, by providing meals for hungry children; in favour of imposing the cost of elections on the public, of providing payment for Members of Parliament; of providing employment for those who call themselves "unemployed;" of providing better housing accommodation for the poor; and finally of giving pensions to all persons indiscriminately over the age of sixty-five; and also there is a constant pressure on the Government largely to increase the pay and other advantages enjoyed by those who are employed in the public service.

All these proposals together would involve an enormous increase in expenditure. How have they been met by the Chancellor of the Exchequer? They have been met with great sympathy, with speeches to the effect that he would be glad to accede to the demands, but he had no money. But what is the first thing that the Chancellor of the Exchequer does? Having a surplus of £3,000,000, he abolishes an equivalent amount of taxation. I wish to credit the House of Commons and the Government in accepting resolutions of this kind with a sincere desire to carry them out, but this desire is surely somewhat inconsistent with the repeal of £3,000,000 a year of taxation, which, as far as I know, has not pressed with any real hardship on any one. I am confident, however, that this plea of there being no money will not last much longer, and that when the Gentlemen who are in favour of this increase of expenditure make these proposals again they will not be satisfied with such an answer, but will require that means shall in some way or other be provided by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to meet them. Well, my Lords, what does this mean? Is there any form of indirect taxation to which a Chancellor of the Exchequer, representing the present Government, could resort with a view to adding to the revenue of the country and in order to provide for the increase in expenditure suggested? Of course, His Majesty's present Government cannot adopt the proposals of the Tariff Reform League for levying duties on all manufactured and partly manufactured imported goods. I should entirely agree with them in objecting to any such proposals, because I believe that any reasonable study of the past would show that the result of duties of the kind would be infinitely more injurious to the trade and industry of the country than it would be beneficial in the majority of cases to the Exchequer. His Majesty's Government are debarred by their own opinions from any course of that sort. They have repealed the taxes to which I have referred. Is there any other indirect tax which it is possible for them to impose in their place. I do not believe that there is one. This means, therefore, that the present expenditure of the country, and any increase of expenditure that may be required on account of what I have mentioned, will have to be provided by the direct taxpayer—in other words, by the payers of the income-tax.

I may be told that a Committee has been appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into the present incidence of the income-tax, and whether it is possible to introduce any graduated system by which it would press less severely on smaller incomes—I suppose between £700 and £2,000 a year—and more upon the wealthier classes. Personally I am glad that the inquiry has been instituted. I have no objection on principle to graduation. We have accepted it in this country for many years in the house duty, and more lately in the estate duty. But I believe that the practicability of increasing the revenue by graduating the income-tax is a very doubtful matter indeed. I do not know how it can be done unless you are to single out through the officials of the Inland Revenue persons who might be suspected of having more than the limit of income above which you propose to impose a higher rate of taxation, require them to return the total amount of their income, and levy an additional income-tax upon them. I am sure that nobody who has the least acquaintance with the working of the income-tax would desire to see its mainstay removed—namely, the payment of the income-tax at its source. Supposing that such an additional tax were levied, there would be even a greater inducement than now exists, in schedule D of the income-tax, to make an incorrect statement of the total income. There would be, I believe, so many cases of incorrect statements of the kind on the part of persons who might be liable to the additional tax that its yield would be very small, and the Exchequer would run the risk of a very grave loss on the existing sources of revenue, because many taxpayers, thinking an additional tax unjust, would endeavour to avail themselves of all kinds of means to receive, in a way that the Inland Revenue could not ascertain, incomes from foreign dividends or foreign business, and matters of that kind, incomes which are now paid through bankers in London who deduct the income-tax before the dividends or profits are paid. I do not anticipate, therefore, that, even supposing this Committee should report that it would be possible in some way or other to graduate the income-tax and that the Government should adopt some proposal of the kind next year, the increase of the yield on the present income-tax would come to any very large amount.

I have been referring to the matter merely so far as it affects the burden on the income-tax payers in time of peace; but I believe there is a more serious and a more important side to the question, as it affects the resources of the country in time of war. When I was Chancellor of the Exchequer, during the South African war I had to raise a large increase of revenue to provide for the war charges. I turned, like all my predecessors, in the first place to the income-tax, which at the beginning of the war, stood at 8d. in the £. I raised it until in one year it reached 1s. 3d. in the £. But the income-tax now stands at 1s. in the £. Supposing it unfortunately happened that next year we were involved—and nobody can tell when this may happen—in some serious and costly war, the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the day would start with an income-tax of 1s. in the £. He would be deprived of no less than £10,000,000 a year which was available to me for war purposes, and which is now being dissipated in time of peace.

I wish I could impress sufficiently on the House and on His Majesty's Government how seriously I regard this diminution of the necessary resources of the country in the event of a possible war. You may invent, as I had to invent, other kinds of taxation, but there is no tax which is so essentially useful in time of war as the income-tax. There is no other conceivable tax which can be raised and which can be lowered again without the smallest injurious effect on trade, commerce, and industry; and looking to the financial condition of the country, anything which deprives us of the full yield of that tax for meeting the cost of war is to my mind a very serious financial danger.

I thank your Lordships for the patience with which you have listened to my observations. I will conclude by saying that I make these criticisms in no hostile spirit to the Budget of this year or to His Majesty's Government. What I do desire is that in that large consideration which they have promised of the finances of the country this important fact should not be lost sight of—that an income-tax of 1s. in the £ is hard on the income-tax payers, most of whom are comparatively poor men, and in time of peace is utterly indefensible, as depriving us of necessary resources in time of war.

*LORD WELBY: My Lords, I have listened with very great attention to the speech that has just been delivered by the noble Viscount, and with a very large part of his observations, if I may venture to say so without presumption, I agree. I cannot help regretting, however, that the noble Viscount devoted some part of his speech to a defence of the coal duty. The noble Viscount, when he was proposing the tax, guarded himself by saying that care must be taken in aiming at revenue not to sacrifice trade. I cannot help thinking that the experience we have had of the working of the coal tax shows that we have endangered trade in seeking revenue from that source.

It appears to me that a duty of this kind must have one of two results—either it must add to the price and so far handicap the English trader, who is exposed to very great competition both from Germany and America, or it must diminish the productiveness of the trade, and to that extent diminish the fund from which the wages of the labourers employed are met. I lay stress upon this last point because of the very large proportion labour occupies in the cost of the production of a ton of coal. It is, I believe, admitted that the labour involved in the production of a ton of coal represents 80 per cent. of the whole cost. If that is the case, it appears to me that the imposition of any duty which has the effect of restricting either the export of our coal or the output, and thereby diminishing the labour employed, is a very serious matter, and I venture to think that the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, in seeking revenue, to a great extent endangered trade. I gathered that the noble Viscount did not object very greatly to the course that has been taken. Indeed, it would be somewhat hard for noble Lords opposite to do so seeing that the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the late Government had announced his intention of giving up this duty. On both sides of politics this duty was regarded as one of the first to be surrendered.

I have much sympathy with the noble Viscount when he speaks of the difficult position in which we stand with regard to taxation. I hope that before any preconceived doctrine is laid down that direct taxation has a prior claim upon the Government, care will be be taken to review the whole position of the taxpayer. I am constantly struck with the fact that an enormous amount of property is in the hands of a very small number of people. For instance, if we look at the Inland Revenue returns we see that something like 4,000 people in a short time died leaving £300,000,000 of property. Taking into consideration the deductions which are now made from the lower incomes, has a case been made out for a reduction of income-tax in preference to a reduction on those articles of consumption the tax on which weighs so heavily on the wage-earning classes?

I do not wish to offer any criticism upon the action taken this year by His Majesty's Government. It is clear that it would be impossible for a Government coming into power in the month of December to effect any great change in our financial system in their first year. The difficulty of ascertaining the real facts of the financial situation is at once a bar to any effective action being taken by a Government in the first year. If I might express a pious opinion, I should have been very glad if His Majesty's Government had seen their way not to reduce taxation this year, but to devote the money which they would then have had in hand to the reduction of debt, so that next year, when they had thoroughly studied the financial situation, they might have been in a stronger position to carry out important financial reforms. I remember that, in the year 1873, Mr Gladstone devoted a large surplus to paying off the Alabama debt instead of reducing taxation, and thereby he secured in the following year a revenue which gave an opportunity, which I suppose has never since been enjoyed by a Chancellor of the Exchequer, of carrying out large and important financial reforms on a scale in ordinary years impossible. But in the case of a new Government having just taken office, I quite admit that that is a policy which they could hardly be expected to follow. I think by next year the Government ought to have fully considered the situation and be in a position to give effect to some of the large financial measures which are before the country.

I remember a conversation I once had with the late Lord Northbrook, a statesman of very great practical knowledge and at the same time one of the most prudent financiers. From his long experience at the War Office and the Admiralty, Lord Northbrook had a full sense of our responsibilities in the matter of defence, and his general training led him to know how dangerous it was to diminish or endanger our resources in time of war. He told me that he had before him at one time several recommendations from his expert advisers regarding fortification in India. He told me that the demand was large, and he referred it back to them in order that they might endeavour to reduce it and bring it more within the limits which he thought they could afford. They were not able to present a result such as he desired, and he then said that he could not agree to it. In a question of this kind there were, he pointed out, two dangers—the danger of not being provided with a sufficient military force, and the greater danger of putting the finances of India out of gear; and for the moment he felt that he must give the preference to establishing and maintaining a sound financial condition in India. I was very much struck by the manner in which he told me that, and I think it is important that this should be borne in mind in dealing with this question. I venture to hope that His Majesty's Government will accept the canon which Lord Northbrook then laid down.

The noble Viscount referred to the position in which we were in 1899. In the whole course of our experience there has hardly been a more favourable year, financially speaking, then 1899. For years we had been reducing the taxation of the country. We had also been reducing the Debt, and our Consols stood higher than ever before. Not only had the Debt been very largely decreased in consequence of the action of Chancellors of the Exchequer of both Parties, but owing to one of the most difficult and at the same time successful measures which I remember during my career at the Treasury—namely, the conversion of the Debt by my noble friend Lord Goschen—the charge of the Debt had immensely decreased. Never before in our history were we in such a favourable position to face the heavy cost of war as in 1899, owing to the wise finance of both Parties in the State for many years previously.

What is the position in which we find ourselves at the present moment? The reduction of the Debt, which had amounted to £150,000,000 in the space of thirty years, has been obliterated, and our Debt stands now at a higher figure than, or at as high a figure as, it has stood since since 1870. The sum of £23,000,000 has been added to our taxation, and on every side we see symptoms of excessive expenditure. One result has been that whereas in 1899 Consols stood at 110, or, perhaps at 109, allowing for the fact that Consols were bearing for a year or two a quarter per cent. additional interest, they are now at eighty-nine or ninety.

The country possesses two great instruments for employment in the case of such an emergency as war. The first is its defensive forces, and the second its financial position. It is difficult, in my opinion, to say which is the more important. But I am afraid that should the emergency of war now arise the country would not be able to start from the sound condition of finance from which it was able to start at the outbreak of the South African war. The position is therefore a very grave one, and I hope that during the present year His Majesty's Government will be able to give such consideration to the national finances as will restore them to a sound basis. In this connection I would again quote the late Lord Northbrook, who declared that if he must run some risk he would rather run the risk of not accepting some of the recommendations of his expert advisers than endanger the stability of Indian finance. It ought to be the canon of every Chancellor of the Exchequer that under no circumstances will he endanger the stability of English finances.

The noble Viscount held out very little hope of reduction of expenditure in the future. Indeed, he apprehended rather an increase. If the House of Commons is bent not only on maintaining the present scale of expenditure but on listening to every demand that is made upon it for fresh expenditure, I fear that the present unsound condition of the national finances will not be removed, and that if the present strain is long continued the country will be in a most unfavourable position to meet an emergency.

*VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: My Lords, I shall trouble your Lordships with only a few observations. I can associate myself entirely with the principles laid down by my noble friend Lord St. Aldwyn, and I think that he has rendered a great service by placing before your Lordships his review of the financial situation. There is one remark which I would like to add in consequence of what has just fallen from my noble friend Lord Welby. The noble Lord quoted, naturally with admiration and approval, the doctrines laid down by Lord Northbrook, but I venture to think that such a question cannot be decided by any general principle. It must depend entirely upon the circumstances of each successive phase of European and other politics.

If there arose an emergency in which the country were called upon to act suddenly, there might be a frightful disaster if we were not prepared sufficiently with our naval and military defences, and certainly it would be a greater disaster than a disarrangement of our finances. It is essential, therefore, to look around, to consider the risks, in order to judge of the present necessity for preparedness. If there is one fact that must be borne in mind, a fact of supreme importance, it is that in the most modern wars they who strike first and hardest are most likely to win. I agree with Lord St. Aldwyn that there may possibly be room for considerable reduction in the Army expenditure, though I cannot form a judgment upon it, because my experience of the Navy shows how exceedingly difficult it is for those who are not acquainted with the inner working of the establishment to judge upon general principles as to whether there is extravagance or not.

But with regard to the Navy, you must take into consideration the new developments of foreign navies. Navies have been developed by three nations which before counted far less in any review of naval power. Therefore the public ought not to take it for granted that because the present cost of the Navy is much larger than it was ten years ago, there is now an opportunity for reduction in naval expenditure. The Chancellor of the Exchequer in his able speech in the other House quoted comparative figures in relation to the increase in expenditure and said, "These facts speak for themselves." That is just what they do not do. The facts do not speak for themselves. If a battleship that formerly cost £750,000 now costs £1,500,000, it is idle to charge the Admiralty with extravagance because they have spent £500,000 more upon the battleship. The additional £500,000 spent on the ship is now absolutely necessary.

I think the public will delude itself, and the Radical Party will delude itself, if it thinks the Navy offers any wide scope for economy in the coming years. Those who have read the political programme of other countries this year must see that we live in times when a reduction in our defensive forces would be one of the greatest mistakes of which the country could be guilty. I therefore offer these few words, not of warning, but of caution, that the hopes of those who so much desire a reduction in expenditure are, so far as the Navy is concerned, doomed to disappointment.

LORD JOICEY: My Lords, I have some hesitation in intervening in this debate after the speeches to which we have listened from noble Lords who are recognised throughout the country as great financial experts. But, though I have not had the experience that the noble Lords who have spoken enjoy, I have been largely concerned in great financial operations of different kinds. I cannot agree with the noble Viscount who spoke first that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was wrong in remitting the coal duty. My views are pretty well known on that subject, and I have as large an experience of the effect of that duty upon the general trade of the country as anyone. Your Lordships must not forget that this question was gone into very carefully by a Commission appointed by the late Government, and that that Commission decided clearly and distinctly that the duty was a very serious injury to the trade of the country and ought to be abolished at the first opportunity.

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN: Will the noble Lord quote the words of the Report? I do not recollect that.

LORD JOICEY: I cannot quote the words, but that was the spirit of the whole Report. I know that many people are under the impression that the coal duty was not paid by this country, but by the consumers of coal abroad. But as the frontier that was taxed was the frontier between this country and the foreign consumer only, and all other countries which produced coal were open without the tax, it was quite impossible to make the consumer pay the tax. I have been asked more than once how it was that the consumer in this country paid the tea duty, and yet the consumer abroad did not pay the coal duty. Surely the answer to that is obvious. If a tax were put upon tea coming into this country by the east coast, and the whole of the west coast were left entirely free from duty, could anyone argue for a moment that the tax would be paid by the consumer?

The coal tax has now gone. It was based, in my judgment, on a wrong principle. I do not believe in any export tax. I think it is always in restraint of trade, and I hope this country will never again be so foolish as to put a tax on anything exported from this country. I am bound to say that with much that fell from the noble Viscount I entirely agree. The great increase in the expenditure of this country got its impetus during the South African War, and we are now feeling the effects of that enormous expenditure, and it will be many years before we shall be able to relieve ourselves from them. I agree with the noble Viscount that the income-tax is a great advantage in time of war. It is a tax which can be very easily levied and collected, and a huge sum can be secured in that way in a very short time. But I cannot take quite the same alarming view as the noble Viscount. While our taxation in this country is increasing to a serious extent our wealth and our population are increasing certainly at the same ratio, and I do not think, therefore, that we need be unnecessarily alarmed, even if the income-tax should stand at 1s. in the £.

What may take place after the Committee which has been appointed by the present Government to deal with this question has reported I am unable to say. At the same time, I do not think it will be any serious burden upon people who have large incomes if they have to pay a larger proportion to the Exchequer than they are paying at the present time. I do not think that there are any men with huge incomes who would not willingly pay at all events their fair share to maintain the services of the country. With regard to the Navy and Army, there is no doubt that the country fully believes in their being kept up to the highest point of efficiency. So far as I have been able to gather the feeling of the country, I have never found a man, I have certainly never found any body of men, in favour of reducing the efficiency of the Navy. With regard to the allusion made by the noble Viscount opposite to the desire of certain Radicals to get the expenditure on the Navy reduced, I am bound to say that so far as I have had experience of the working classes, in particular in the north of England, I have always found them thoroughly in favour of maintaining the Navy at the highest point of efficiency, and if further money should be required for that purpose I think it would be forthcoming, and would be given freely by the country if the Government could show that it was absolutely necessary.

As to the Army, certain promises have been held out of a reduction of expenditure. I think it quite possible that there may be means of reducing expenditure on the Army without impairing its efficiency; but if any reduction should be proposed which, in my judgment, would interfere with the efficiency of the Army, I should certainly feel it my duty to oppose it, because I think the vast interests we have to protect demand that we should have both services as efficient as they can be rendered. I congratulate the Government on having got their Budget through without any serious opposition in another place, and I account for it to a large extent by the fact that, as has been stated, this is the Budget of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer. Surely, if it were his own child he could not very well disown and attack it. When the present Chancellor of the Exchequer comes to deal with the financial affairs of the country we shall probably see great changes, and I hope they will be such changes as will conduce to the raising of money easily for the services of the country.

*THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The MARQUESS of RIPON): My Lords, we have had a very important and interesting discussion, and those who have addressed your Lordships have spoken from various points of view, and with great authority. We all listened, I am sure, with interest to the speech of the noble Viscount opposite, Lord St. Aldwyn, who gave us the result of his long experience. I am not able to agree with all the conclusions at which the noble Viscount arrived, but at the same time every one in this House will recognise that he spoke only from the results of his own experience, which is so great and to which we owe so much respect, and that he did not do so from any Party considerations whatever.

There was a great deal which fell from the noble Viscount with respect to the income-tax with which I imagine most of us will agree, and it is well that he should have availed himself of this opportunity to call attention to the value and importance of the income-tax and to its special position in our system of finance. But, my Lords, I do not think that it would have been possible for my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer to have based his financial arrangements this year solely upon a reduction of the income-tax. I do not know where he was to have found the means of doing anything else if he had taken a penny off the income-tax. The noble Viscount made a slight error, I think, in the figures he quoted. He spoke of my right hon. friend as having budgeted for a surplus of £3,704,000.

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN: No, £3,074,000.

*THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: Then I did not hear the noble Viscount correctly.

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN: A reduction of the income-tax would have been possible, but no other taxes could have been reduced.

*THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: I do not think that was a possible course for my right hon. friend to have taken. As the noble Viscount knows, very important questions connected with the structure and the mode of raising the income-tax are now under consideration. Those questions have been referred to a Committee. They cover a very wide range. They relate to that difficult question of graduation to which the noble Viscount alluded. They relate also to the problem of the difference between permanent and temporary incomes, a question which I remember was settled in the year 1853 for at least a generation by the great speech of Mr. Gladstone, one of the most remarkable efforts that was ever made by any Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of Commons. Those questions are under consideration. I do not put that forward as a conclusive reason, but I think it is a reason of considerable weight, against having made a reduction of the income-tax the sole financial arrangement of the year.

The noble Viscount touched upon the question of the coal tax, but I do not propose to delay your Lordships long upon that matter. The noble Lords behind me who have spoken have touched upon some of the objections which can be raised to that tax. I venture to think it has not been a successful tax. The noble Viscount seemed to think that the quotation given by my noble friend behind me from the Report of the Royal Commission on Coal Supplies was incorrect. In one respect I must admit that it was, inasmuch as the Report of the Commission contains the facts which were collected and the results at which they arrived, but does not draw any conclusion. But, on the other hand, the Report tells us that the witnesses generally were of opinion that the maintenance of a large coal export trade is of supreme importance to the country and essential to the prosperity of the coal-producing districts. On page 23 of the Report it is stated that—

> "It is difficult to resist the contention that the tax had some effect in reducing the tonnage exported in the year 1901, although it is probable that the high level of prices, which was still maintained, and the declining condition of trade, both at home and abroad, had some influence on the figures. It will be seen that the total output of coal in 1901 in the United Kingdom was less by 6,000,000 tons than in 1900, but it should be noted that the home consumption in 1901 was 5,500,000 tons less than it was in 1900. It should not be overlooked that the coal-exporter has had the advantage of much lower export freights for coal in 1901 and subsequently than prevailed in 1900, and this must have mitigated the effect of the tax to a large extent."

All this tends to show, together with other portions of the Report, that the tax has interfered with trade, and I venture to think there is clear evidence in this Report that it has hampered the operation of our trade in France, Belgium, and Holland, and that in those countries German coal has had a tendency to take the place of British coal. From the facts contained in the Report we find that wages and profits have had a tendency to decline. I think these are good grounds for repealing the tax. Certainly we know that it was the intended policy of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer to repeal the coal tax. Therefore, my right hon. friend cannot be charged with taking a step the necessity of which had not already forced itself upon the minds of those who at the time were responsible for the finances of the country. I need not dwell on that subject. All I say is, that as far as the facts are known to me, I believe the coal tax to have acted in a manner injurious and hampering to our interests, and I think it was one of the first taxes marked for repeal.

The noble Viscount seems very much afraid of what may be done by the House of Commons in regard to the increase of taxes. That is a complaint which ever since I first entered Parliament I have heard made by every Chancellor of the Exchequer and ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, and there have been but few men who have stood up to demands of that kind in the way in which Mr. Gladstone did. I quite admit that each demand for money for this purpose or for that must be considered not only upon its abstract merits but in connection with the financial condition of the country, and I am quite sure that that is the course which my right hon. friend will take. Large reductions of expenditure, if they are made, must be made upon the large items, while at the same time a careful Chancellor of the Exchequer would always keep his eye upon small items also. The noble Viscount pointed out with great force the startling difference between the rate of expenditure on the Army and the rate on the Navy. I agree with the noble Viscount in thinking that that is a fact which needs most careful consideration, and it is receiving that consideration from His Majesty's Government.

Your Lordships are aware, from what has been said before in this House, that the Secretary of State for War is considering the whole of our military arrangements very carefully and deliberately. I do not think your Lordships will be inclined to condemn him for taking his time over that. We have had too many successive experiments made with the Army during the last few years, and it is very desirable that any further changes should be made with the utmost deliberation. I have every reason to believe that my right hon. friend Mr. Haldane will find it within his power to reduce the Army expenditure in an effective manner, although it is not possible for me at the present moment to make any statement upon that subject. I believe it is probable that an opportunity will be taken by the Secretary of State to make some statement with regard to it in some of the discussions on the Estimates before the end of the session.

I do not know that I need detain your Lordships longer. Unlike the noble Lords who have addressed you, I do not profess to be an expert on this subject.

I can only say, however, that I am unable to agree that the one thing to have done was to reduce the income tax. My noble friend Lord Welby seemed to think that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have done better if he had made no reduction of taxation at all. That, my Lords, is a counsel of perfection, and I do not think my noble friend himself believes that it would have been advisable or possible for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to have taken that course. Neither do I think that it would have been possible for him in the present state of public opinion, in the face of a Parliament like the present, to have reduced the income tax and nothing else. Therefore, he has dealt with two taxes—the coal tax, which was marked especially for removal, and the tea duty, the reduction of which will afford relief—limited relief, I agree—to the people of this country in one of the most important articles of consumption. The noble Viscount said he did not think that reduction would reach the people.

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN: The poorest of the people.

*THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: The information with which I have been furnished from the financial departments leads me to think that it has had that effect, if not always in the reduction in price, in some cases in the improvement of the quality. The statement made by the noble Viscount at the commencement of his speech really represents the truth of the present position. He said this was a provisional Budget. He accepted it as a provisional Budget. A provisional Budget it is. It is not to be taken as indicating what is likely to be the financial policy of His Majesty's Government in coming years. It is a provisional Budget dealing with the finances as they were left to us by our predecessors, dealing with the Estimates of expenditure which we received from them, and it is intended solely for the purpose of making such reduction—limited, I quite agree—in taxation as was possible in the circumstances in which we took office.

On Question, Bill read 2^a; Standing Order No. XXXIX. dispensed with. Bill read 3^a, and passed.

RESERVE FORCES BILL.

Reports of Amendments received.

Amendments moved—

"In page 1, line 7. after the word 'any' to insert the words 'British Protectorate or in any'; in line 9, after 'any' to insert the words 'British Protectorate or in any'; and in lines 10 and 11, to leave out the words 'a self-governing colony' and to insert the words 'in a colony possessing responsible government.'"—(*The Earl of Portsmouth.*)

On Question, Amendments agreed to. Bill to be read 3^a To-morrow; and to be printed as amended. [No. 130.]

INDIAN RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

EARL BEAUCHAMP: My Lords, this is a small Departmental Bill about which I do not think there can be any controversy. The original Railways Act of 1894 enables the Indian railway companies, upon certain conditions, to pay interest on their share capital out of capital during construction. By Section 9 of that Act the duration of it extended only to December 31st, 1905, or to the end of the then next ensuing session of Parliament and no longer, unless Parliament should otherwise determine. It appears desirable to make this Act permanent, and the Bill now before your Lordships has been drawn up with that object. I beg to move that it be read a second time.

Moved, That the Bill be now read 2^a.—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

On Question, Bill read 2^a, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

GREENWICH OBSERVATORY.

*LORD ELLENBOROUGH rose, in accordance with notice, to call attention to the electrical works that the London County Council have lately built about half a mile from the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, and to point out that the presumed position of every ship when at sea, and out of sight of land, is based upon a comparsion of the results of observations taken by her officers, and other observations taken years previously by astronomers at the Royal Observatory, and that the positions of all places shown on British and American maps and charts, whether European, Indian, or Colonial, and also on most foreign maps and charts, are also dependent upon observations taken at Greenwich; that at a conference of delegates from the principal countries in the world, twenty-seven in number, held at Washington in October, 1884, for the purpose of fixing on a meridian proper to be employed as a common zero of longitude, twenty-two representatives voted in favour of adopting the meridian passing through the centre of the transit instrument at the Observatory at Greenwich as the initial meridian for longitude, and that, in consequence of this, nearly all nations of importance now use Greenwich time as a Standard or Universal time; that if a single ship is lost in consequence of confusion being introduced into longitudes its value might well be treble that of these new electrical works; that during the last two hundred and thirty years many millions of observations connected with cartography and astronomy have been made at the Observatory and other places, the value of which largely depends upon the fixity of the Royal Observatory as a reference point; and to call attention to the action of the London County Council in building furnaces and tall chimneys nearly due north of the Observatory, and in using engines which cause some of the astronomical instruments to vibrate in such a manner as to destroy all possibility of accurate observation; and to ask the Government if they will apply to Parliament for power to prevent the Royal Observatory from being shaken or smoked out, either at present or any future time.

The noble Lord said: My Lords, if the London County Council, encouraged by the success of their line of river steamers, launch out into ocean traffic, they will soon learn from their sea-going captains that it will be necessary to supply their ships with chronometers, whose error on Greenwich mean time is always known. The first thing that a seaman has to do when he wishes to find his ship's position when out of sight of land is to take the angular height of one or more heavenly bodies with a sextant. The next thing he does is to find the time that it was at Greenwich when he took his observations. This is done by means of a chronometer. This process is called getting a Greenwich date. It is a preliminary to working almost every class of observation at sea, whether for the purpose of ascertaining the position of a ship or for finding the error of a compass.

When he has obtained his Greenwich date, he proceeds to calculate how far he is east or west of Greenwich and how far he is north or south of the equator. This he does by comparing the results of observations made years previously at Greenwich, with those he has just made himself. If he or Greenwich make a mistake the ship may be lost with all hands. If out of the whole of the commerce of the globe a single ship is lost, her value might well amount to three times that of the Greenwich electrical works, to say nothing of her crew, who, after all, count as something. The London County Council have as yet only put up 20,000 horse-power at Greenwich. Well, there are many ships afloat that carry more than that. In the Royal Navy alone there are more than twenty-five such ships.

In 1884 what had been the general practice was made the rule, and the meridian passing through the centre of the transit instrument at Greenwich was selected as the common zero of longitude for the whole world, and the centre of that instrument became the chief reference point in universal geography. The railways and telegraphs in America and many other countries are all dependent on Greenwich time. For instance, Inter-Colonial time, that is, Nova Scotia time, is four hours slow on Greenwich. Eastern time is five hours slow, Central time is six hours slow, Mountain time is seven hours slow, and Pacific time is eight hours slow on Greenwich. There is also Mid-Europe time, one hour fast, Eastern Europe, and South African time, two hours fast, and Australian, Japanese, and New Zealand time, all of which depend on Greenwich. If in obedience to the London County Council we change our point of reference, we shall have remonstrances and possibly demands for compensation from all parts of the globe. The position of every place in the world, of every lighthouse and of every rock, as depicted on an English or American map or chart, and on most foreign maps or charts, is known by the angle between the plane of its meridian and that of Greenwich.

It is somewhat difficult to explain to any one who has never studied any branch of science the value of the nearest obtainable exactitude in measurements. Nearly all the discoveries which make the progress of the world, in the application of which to various industries many millions of men find work who would otherwise be unemployed, have been due to experiments conducted with the greatest possible accuracy. More exact instruments for measuring weight and length are constantly being invented. The advance in our chemical, metallurgical, and electrical industries is largely due to their employment. In chemistry, when a substance is too small to be weighed, you dissolve it and see how much water its equivalent will discolour. All branches of science are more or less interlaced, and receive from time to time unexpected help from one another. Continuity of observation is also a matter of great importance. All large astronomical instruments take some years before they settle down to their work, and if the observatory was moved there would be a most regrettable gap.

I have been told that nearly £500,000 has been spent on these works by the London County Council. Even if this is the case, what is that in comparison with what has been spent in bygone years on surveys and scientific expeditions, and on other work more or less connected with Greenwich? What are the interests of a few thousand people living near Greenwich compared with those of the millions whose navigation, clocks, watches, and geography depend on Greenwich? The observatory was there first, and if people choose to come and live in its neighbourhood they must accept the few restrictions involved by such a residence. If they put up machinery it must be at the risk of being ordered to remove it. Perhaps business men may understand the matter better if put in this way. To move Greenwich Observatory for the sake of the London County Council engines would be like changing the value of the British pound sterling to that of the Egyptian pound for the convenience of a few Cairo financiers.

If it was necessary to erect engines at Greenwich, one would naturally ask, Why not put up turbines, which in all probability would cause no vibration at all? Failing them, why not put up triple expansion engines with horizontal cylinders, a pattern that has been in use for many years? They run very smoothly. Instead of that, double expansion engines were selected with the first cylinder placed perpendicularly above the crank so as to get as much thumping as possible. Is the astronomy and geography of the whole world to be put out of joint for the sake of the perpendicular cylinders of the London County Council? Their interests are infinitesimal compared with those they claim the right to interfere with. The Council must be made to grasp the fact that, omitting purely scientific considerations, the navigational, geographical and business interests of the world do not permit the removal of Greenwich Observatory, and that if anything has to go it is their works. But before going to the expense of removal, it would be well to consider the practicability of reducing the height of the chimneys by 100 feet, of introducing additional machinery for the consumption of smoke, using forced draught, of substituting turbines for reciprocating engines, and of adding many tons of concrete to the foundations. The latter method was successfully employed in reducing the vibration of some of the tube railways. Of course no further extension of the works should be allowed.

The London County Council chimneys are nearly due north of the Observatory. They extend to a height of 2½ degrees above the horizon of the Observatory, and the four chimneys together obscure a horizontal sky space of about 3½ degrees, thus excluding from all future observation a celestial space of about nine square degrees on the horizon. When smoke is coming out of the chimneys a still further space is obscured. At present only two chimneys are in use and the other two are approaching completion. The present plant of reciprocating engines can work up to 20,000 horse-power, though only 5,000 is in use at present.

It is impossible to estimate how much smoke and vibration there will be when the whole of this plant is in full working order, and how many instruments may then be disturbed.

If a clause is introduced into a private Act of Parliament it would give insufficient protection against future attacks by other persons. For instance, any company or person who chose to do so might build factories with still taller chimneys, and put up machinery, such as steam-hammers, which would shake the Observatory fifty times as much as the existing engines. I consider it absolutely necessary to pass a public Act of Parliament to protect the Royal Observatory from all future encroachments or interference. On March 13th, the London County Council actually wrote to the Astronomer Royal saying that they were—

> "unable to acknowledge any liability in regard to the effect on the Observatory of the working of the station."

It is clear that the London County Council do not realise the mischief they are doing. It seems sad that the education of half a million of London children should have been entrusted to a body who are evidently ignorant of the first principles of geography. The London County Council are like little children playing with fire, and should be gently but firmly pulled off the hearth-rug—that is, the neighbourhood of Greenwich—before they have had time to do serious mischief.

I expect the next thing that the London County Council will do will be to order the Equator to clear out of the tropics and not to take more than its fair share of sunshine. A redistribution of sunshine would be a popular measure, but there might be some difficulty in carrying it out. Why not throw all the latitudes in the world out of order as well as the longitudes? As a matter of fact, the Poles and the Equator are not exactly always in the same position as regards the Earth. They oscillate to the extent of about fifty feet, while the Greenwich transit instrument remains the fixed reference point of the Universe. Another point on the same meridian would not serve the same purpose, with exactitude, as it might be more or less affected by this oscillation. When the London County Council engines are running, accurate observations for testing this oscillation cannot be taken. When I looked at the instrument used for measuring it, the lines in the mercurial mirror were constantly vibrating, though only 5,000 horse-power or less was being used. I was told that formerly they were only disturbed when trains were passing, but that now the movement is continuous. If ever the Greenwich railway directors ask for further Parliamentary powers, they should be told that they can only have them on condition of reinforcing the foundations of their line with concrete.

This is not the first attempt that has been made to destroy the usefulness of the Greenwich Observatory. A Fenian or an Anarchist once tried to destroy it. He met, however, with a well-deserved fate, for he blew himself to pieces instead. But he has, I believe the unique honour of being the only person whose crime has been timed to a tenth of a second by the institution that he wished to destroy. If the power of making accurate observations is denied to Greenwich Observatory it will be as much destroyed as if it had been blown up by a Fenian. A considerable portion of the observations and calculations that have been made at Greenwich and in other places during the last 230 years will be rendered useless. If the London County Council continue to interfere with the means of obtaining universal standard time and longitude, they will bring upon themselves the dislike and contempt of the whole civilised world. The Royal Observatory should not be shaken and smoked out of its place by a local body ignorant of what Greenwich is to the world in general. A public Act of Parliament should be passed to protect the Observatory from interference.

*THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Lord TWEEDMOUTH): My Lords, the noble Lord has made a very vigorous speech on this subject, and I am glad to be able to sympathise with him in his care for the future of Greenwich Observatory. Since this subject has been raised it has been closely considered at the Admiralty. We have been in conference with the authorities at Greenwich and with the representatives of the County

Council. As to the origin of this generating station, in 1901 the London County Council resolved on it, and in 1902 a Bill was passed through Parliament. In this Bill was inserted a clause known as the Observatory Clause, which gave to the Board of Trade the power, if any use of electrical power was likely to affect injuriously the instruments used in the Observatory, to require reasonable and proper precautions to be taken. This proposal was made public and approved by Parliament. It is a pity that the County Council had not more closely apprehended the possibility of danger to the Observatory in choosing this particular site, but I think that there was some responsibility also to be attached to the various departments and also to Parliament.

I think that the noble Lord has given an exaggerated account of what has taken place. This afternoon I had a conversation with the Astronomer Royal, and he thinks that at present, at any rate, no absolute damage has been done. I admit, however, that there is an apprehension of it when the station is developed to its fullest power. It will be almost the biggest generating station in the world when completed. Eight engines will work up to 52,000 horse-power, and the electricity generated will, it is supposed, be sufficient to work the whole of the London tramway system. But at the present time the Astronomer Royal says that no serious effect has as yet arisen in the working of the principal meridian instrument. This is a stationary instrument not easily subject to vibration. The Astronomer Royal says, however, that the instrument which has been affected is the portable transit instrument used for determining longitude. There has thus been evidence of some disturbance in this instrument, but the Astronomer Royal says that the interferences are variable and intermittent, and sometimes stop altogether. He added that from the large generating station at Deptford, which is only a quarter of a mile further from the Observatory than this generating station, no damage has resulted, and there is no indication of any disturbance.

What we have to do is to take very careful observation as to what exactly is going on at Greenwich. At present, I believe that the station is never worked up to more than 3,000 horse-power. A trial has been made of two engines, but the experiments were in no sense complete or satisfactory. What I propose to do is to ask Professor Ewing, who lives at Greenwich, and is a distinguished engineer, intimately acquainted with scientific instruments, to represent the Admiralty—he is our Director of Naval Education already—in the observations to be taken, which must extend over a considerable time. I am told that the disturbances that do occur vary very much, and that there is a great deal to be said as to the possibility of meeting the difficulties by reducing the height of the chimneys, though the Astronomer Royal does not think that the vapour of the chimneys as yet seriously interferes with the observations.

I propose also to ask the London County Council to name a representative of their own for the Committee I am about to appoint to report on the whole subject. I have had a conference with members of the County Council—the chairmen of the various committees—in company with the Astronomer Royal, and the County Council have expressed themselves very desirous to meet the wishes of the Admiralty and to do anything reasonable in the way of making such alterations in the plant as would prevent damage to the Observatory.

*VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: My Lords, I cannot say that the statement which has just been made by my noble friend is very reassuring, and there are certain defects in the information which he has been good enough to give to the House. His expressions as to varying interferences and the time that will be taken in order to show the exact effect of them must fill every one of your Lordships with alarm.

One of the questions which suggests itself, however, is whether the County Council in the meanwhile are going to continue this gigantic work? Are there no means of coming to an arrangement with the County Council, that, pending inquiry, they should not continue to spend large sums of money upon these works? Evidently a gigantic mistake has been made—a mistake by the Admiralty, by the Astronomer Royal, by the County Council, and by Parliament, and I do not gather from the tone of the noble Lord, anxious and determined as he is to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion, the slightest note of confidence that it will be possible to remove all the objections that have been raised. The matter affects not only the Greenwich Observatory, but the whole scientific world. In these circumstances I scarcely think that the device of continuing the experiments and watching the observations is quite adequate to the enormous importance of the position.

I am aware of the great abilities of Professor Ewing. I am sure, too, that the County Council will bring to bear on the matter the greatest anxiety in the choice of their representative ; but I question whether this is not a work in which the greatest scientists in the Kingdom should be associated in some form or another, so that the country and all those interested should be assured that every scrap of scientific knowledge available in this country, of whatever class, is being brought to bear on the subject. The idea that Greenwich Observatory, that historic scientific monument which has rendered such vast services to the world, and on which so much depends, should be imperilled even in the slightest degree, even by "varying interferences," is really a prospect which few persons can contemplate with equanimity. I conceive that it might come to this, that the whole scheme of the London County Council, notwithstanding their half-million expenditure, might have to be abandoned rather than that the scientific accuracy of Greenwich time should be endangered. It seems only reasonable that the amount involved should not be increased during the considerable time which my noble friend says will be necessary for the conducting of the experiments.

*THE EARL OF CRAWFORD : My Lords, I ask your Lordships' indulgence while I say a few words. The noble Lord in introducing this subject dealt with two aspects of the question, first, the chimney, and second, the effect of the machinery when set in motion inside the generating station. The effect of the chimney is in its relation to the refraction of light, and I would illustrate my meaning by referring to what takes place when the orb of the sun as seen from the deck of a steamer touches the water line on the far horizon. At that instant it is in truth below the horizon. A star seen through a column of heated air is thrown about. A column of air rising up from a tall chimney below the line of vision of the telescope is not uniform in its temperature, and according to the blowing of the wind it passes either to the right or to the left, forward or backward. Consequently the temperature does not remain the same, and the result is that the image of the star which is seen is thrown about violently, and the individual observer is unable to fix it with the definite precision required, and the refraction error is unknown.

It has been suggested that there might be a possibility of lowering the chimneys, but I do not think that would have any very great effect. The chimney at the present time is not much more than two or three degrees above the horizontal point of the horizon. The danger is the heat from the furnaces below the chimneys and the column of hot air passing away. It was found that when the wind was blowing nearly due east, the hot air rising from the chimney was caught by a smart wind and blown away in a horizontal direction before it could rise up and practically destroy the northern horizon. But on a fine night, when there is no wind, the heated air would undoubtedly rise and certainly reach fifteen or even twenty degrees of altitude, destroying all observations which might be required to be made at that altitude by the introduction of the unknown errors.

Reference has been made by the noble Viscount who has just sat down to the mistakes committed by many and various public Departments, but I think there is one mistake which has not been alluded to, but which ought to be noticed in this connection, and that is that the architect to the London County Council had been employed at the Royal Observatory at Greenwich. He was employed to put up the buildings for the important instrument to which the noble Lord the First Lord of the Admiralty referred. The chimney is absolutely on the meridian of that instrument. That ought not to have been allowed. The chimney might easily have been placed in a different position, and I think the architect, knowing the importance of the instrument erected in the Observatory, ought to have noticed this defect.

Tremor is a matter that we are now familiar with in London. I can compare it to what a person feels in walking along the street when one of the large motor omnibuses comes along and shakes the pavement. Another thing one might liken it to is the feeling when you wish to write a note in a train. The shaking to which attention has been called by Lord Ellenborough is so small that an ordinary person might treat it with contempt, yet the movement is very large when taken in connection with the delicate observations which have to be carried on at Greenwich. The essentials for observation of an astronomical kind are stability and quietude. All astronomical observation is a question of measurement either from one body to another or the referring of a heavenly body to a fixed point. Astronomers are compelled to use as a horizon a mercurial mirror, in which the observer is able to see, when the instrument is in perfect order, the real images. As will be readily understood, tremor will affect a basin of mercury. The slightest tremor, set up either by a person walking, by a carriage at a distance, by a train passing, or an engine working, would show itself instantly. The effect is that a star, instead of appearing as a small round disc which one is able to see sharply, is ill-defined and unsteady.

If errors are introduced in this manner, whether by shaking or by abnormal refraction, no harm is done provided we know the magnitude of those errors. Nothing is so dangerous in astronomical observation as the unknown errors which have to be guarded against in the present circumstances at Greenwich. The instrument which I alluded to just now, which has its meridian obstructed by this chimney, is that which is devoted to the observation of the moon. For many years the moon has been given over, by the charter, as it were, of the scientific world, to Greenwich Observatory. Astronomy has grown so vast in its extent, that, as in the case of other branches of science, persons take up groups, none being able to carry the whole work in their heads or to do practical credit to the study of the whole. The Royal Observatory at Greenwich has specialised on the moon, mainly owing to the grand labours of Sir George Airey, the late Astronomer Royal, who by examination of the many hundreds of thousands of observations of the moon reduced those observations down and produced what is called a lunar theory. That is to say, by means of tabular arrangements and mathematical formula the position of the moon at any given time hence may be fairly accurately predicted.

The Earl of Crawford.

The observations at Greenwich and the manner in which they have been carried out by the late Astronomer Royal have led the whole scientific world to say, "Gentlemen, you know your moon so well, pray continue to be responsible for her." In the same way the observation of the minor planets rests with Berlin, and other matters are looked after by American observers. If now Greenwich is reduced to the position of saying that its lunar observations have not the weight and value which so far have attached to them, it will be a terrible blow to the reputation of our Royal Observatory and also to our existence as a scientific country. Another difficulty is that disputes as to boundaries between countries are mainly settled by astronomical observation as to the position of the moon. The easiest way for taking such observations naturally would be by telegraph, but you do not find telegraph cables all over the world, and consequently these boundaries have to be settled by astronomical observations. As the moon is being constantly watched at Greenwich Observatory, applications are frequently received from foreign countries as to the error of the moon at such an hour on such a day. That also shows how extremely important it is that the observations at Greenwich should be reliable.

I understand that in any case Greenwich Observatory will not be the one that will have to move. If it were so, I hardly know how to imagine the result of destroying the position of the meridian of Greenwich. It is difficult for those who are not acquainted with the scientific minutiæ to realise that such is the accuracy demanded of the instruments at Greenwich Observatory. Measures of extension are in fractions of the diameter of a spider's web and hundredths of a second of time. These measurements seem so infinitesimal that you may not think it possible that they could be effected. I will give you an instance. About twenty-eight years ago I had the honour to be on the Board of Visitors of the Royal Observatory. I was at that time President of the Royal Astronomical Society. The Astronomer Royal then told us that the right pier of the transit circle had been sinking for a period of time. It had been going on for some six years. Previous to the meeting of the Board of Visitors in June the errors due to the sinking of this pier had become so great and were so laborious to correct that the Astronomer Royal determined to put the thing right mechanically. He therfore had the transit circle lifted up, moved off the pivots, and beneath the right pivot which carried the big telescope was placed a sheet of paper 180th part of an inch thick. The pivot before this had been too low; after that piece of paper had been put under it it was very slightly too high. But it had taken six years to fall that amount, and the errors were so great, that it was necessary that this should be done.

The Astronomer Royal has told the First Lord of the Admiralty that at the present time, no actual damage has been done. I grant that that is the case, but at all times observations are taken which might be necessary for the purpose of determining a longitude, and I can give you the effect which those observations would have at the present time. I suppose there is no geographical distance, so far as longitude is concerned, better known than the distance between London and Paris. That distance is known certainly with an error not greater than five feet astronomically. Observations which can be obtained at the present time give, not an error of five feet, but an error ranging from fifty to 300 feet. Therefore, though the disturbance caused to the instruments at the Observatory by the County Council's electric works may be infinitely small, that infinitely small disturbance may lead to irreparable damage.

*LORD KELVIN: My Lords, I am sure we are all deeply indebted to the noble Lord who has introduced this subject, and to the noble Earl who has just sat down for his very interesting speech. We must all be deeply impressed with the extreme gravity of this question. The difficulty of seeing what is the right solution is great. But we are comforted by the assurance of the noble Lord the First Lord of the Admiralty that, if either of the two structures is to be removed from Greenwich, it shall not be the Royal Observatory. It would be intolerable that the site of the Royal Observatory should be compulsorily changed. On the other hand, thereis a serious responsibility on account of the large amount of ratepayers' money which has been spent by the London County Council.

If there is any solution by which the electric works at Greenwich can go on without crippling or seriously interfering with the work of the Observatory we shall all, I am sure, be glad. Even at present I think we may look forward to possible changes in the arrangement of the electricity works by which they may not seriously disturb or practically cripple the astronomical observations at Greenwich. A solution which has been suggested—the substitution of steam turbines—is easily spoken of, but not so lightly to be undertaken in respect of machinery already completed. The substitution of steam turbines for reciprocating engines would probably necessitate a different type of electrical machines, and the result of such a substitution might lead to a gigantic piece of "scrapping." I do not know how far the County Council works have progressed.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: About one half of the works have been completed, but it has not been decided what the engines are to be.

*LORD KELVIN: Then there is still time?

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Yes.

*LORD KELVIN: I am glad to learn from the noble Lord that there is still time to avert half of the possible damage. I believe that the disturbance caused at the Observatory by the vibration from the electric works might be practically annulled by the substitution of steam turbines for reciprocating engines. The Metropolitan Electric Supply Corporation some ten or fifteen years ago had a great number of complaints of vibration from occupiers of neighbouring houses and from a neighbouring hotel. Several years passed and the complaints became more serious. At last the company boldly resolved to do away with the reciprocating engines and put steam turbines in their place. Since that was done no further complaint has been received. Of course, that does not prove that in the case of the Greenwich Observatory, where such a slight vibration is injurious, the remedy would be effective, but I think most engineers would come to the conclusion that the substitution of steam turbines would practically annul the vibration. I trust that both Houses of Parliament will unite in defending the Royal Observatory from the tremendous disaster which has seemed to be impending. It is no exaggeration to say that the whole world outside, as well as the British Empire, would deplore anything that would injure the great and good work done in the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, and I hope the Government will succeed in preventing that.

*EARL CAWDOR: My Lords, your Lordships will all have listened with much interest to the instructive speeches which have been delivered this evening, and I am sure the noble Lords who have spoken will think that the statement of the First Lord of the Admiralty is not quite satisfactory. I do not propose to go into the question as to who is to blame. We all agree that something has taken place which ought to have been avoided. I was glad to hear from the noble Lord that he had been met in a friendly spirit by the London County Council, but I am bound to say that it does not appear to me quite satisfactory that it should only be propossd to appoint an expert in the person of Professor Ewing, whose great skill we all recognise most fully, and a representative of the London County Council to watch the effect of what is going on.

What we want is to guard most care fully against the slightest increase in the evils which are admitted to exist. The mischief that is being done is not regular. It seems to vary; but the minute difference in measurements effected shows that these matters want watching with the utmost possible care. I hope the noble Lord the First Lord of the Admiralty will be able in a short time to assure us that some further action is being adopted. The first step to be taken, if it is possible to do so, is to stop any further expenditure by the London County Council that may be found to be useless or worse than useless. It appears certain that any further development of the powerful engines that are being used must increase the evils. Therefore we should guard against any further increase in the horse-power used in these works, and I beg the noble Lord to consider the question of getting the assistance of the best expert advice obtainable in this country. I do not undervalue the great ability of Professor Ewing, but the question at issue is a very big one, and one which deserves to the full the best scientific advice that can be procured. I do not know whether there is any legal process by which the London County Council can be stopped from carrying out works that do mischief to the Observatory, but, if not, I think powers should be obtained. I hope the question of cost will not be allowed to stand in the way. The half million of money expended, or partly expended, by the County Council is comparatively a small item when it is remembered what is at stake.

LORD MUSKERRY: May I ask the noble Lord the First Lord of the Admiralty whether the Board of Trade could not act under the Observatory Clause in the County Council's Bill?

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I have not stated all that I have done in the way of endeavouring to obtain information on this subject, which has only arisen within the last few days. The Law Officers have had the whole question of the powers of the Admiralty and the Board of Trade before them, and they are to advise what those powers are. I have also consulted the Chairman of the Visitors, and he told me that the Visitors comprised all the leading astronomers of this country, and they will, of course, give all the assistance they can in elucidating the question. The London County Council have told me that they would not go on with the two chimneys, which are now only partly erected, and I imagine there will not be much more done with regard to the installation, which is incomplete, and for which the type of engine has not yet been decided.

I hold that it is desirable to discover what the effect of the existing installation really is. It is, I think, necessary that that installation should be worked at its full power in order that we may discover what is the effect on the instruments at Greenwich. I think the House will agree that before doing anything we are bound to discover whether by any rearrangement of the machinery the threatened damage can be averted—for I cannot admit that up to the present moment it is more than a threat of damage. I undertake that every effort shall be made to make the inquiry a thorough one and one which shall command everyone's respect.

THE LORD BISHOP OF SOUTHWARK: Am I right in understanding that the full installation is to be 52,000 horse-power, and that up to the present only 3,000 horse-power has been worked?

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: The full power will be 52,000 horse-power. The amount already installed represents, I think, 26,000 horse-power.

*LORD ELLENBOROUGH: I should like to ask whether I correctly interpreted the noble Lord as saying that only 3,000 horse-power had up to the present time been worked, and that it was intended that the full plant should be 52,000 horse power.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: I said that on the occasion on which some tremor was observed 3,200 horse-power had been developed.

*LORD ELLENBOROUGH: How much is the whole?

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Fifty-two thousand horse-power.

THE LORD BISHOP OF SOUTHWARK: If all this difficulty has been caused by 3,000 horse-power and there is a possibility of 52,000 horse-power, the gravity of the matter is considerably enhanced.

JUSTICES AND THE RATES.

*LORD BARNARD: My Lords, I rise to ask His Majesty's Government whether the requirement that the consent of two or more justices must be obtained to certain rates now serves any useful purpose, and, if not, whether they will take any steps to repeal such requirement. I may explain, for the information of those of your Lordships who are not familiar with this matter, that in rural townships and parishes the last proceeding after the poor-rate has been made, and before the rate can be collected, is that it requires to be allowed by two or more justices. I have not been able to discover what the origin of that allowance was, though I think it goes back to the year 1601. There was no doubt good reason at that date for this allowance being required, but I have been unable to ascertain that at the present time the proceeding is of any public utility whatever. On the other hand, I am able to state that it is a matter of some slight expense to the ratepayers, and of very considerable inconvenience. I have before me a letter written by an assistant overseer in which he informs me that in his union it costs the ratepayers some £30 a year, because a fee has to be paid for this allowance by the magistrates. Many of the officials have to go eight or ten miles to find magistrates. What the principle is on which this requirement is based I have not been able to find out, and I beg to ask whether steps cannot be taken to repeal the requirement.

EARL CARRINGTON: My Lords, I agree that on the face of it it is rather difficult to understand why this requirement should be necessary. The requirement, however, is a very old one. I believe it is over 300 years old. The justices do not enter into the question as to whether a rate ought to be made or not; if it is in proper form they must allow it. That is the law as it stands. I have no information that there is any fee to be paid when this ceremony takes place, but I understand from the noble Lord that that is so. So long as the overseers have the duty of making the poor rate it is thought that there is not any very great or sufficient reason for abolishing altogether the allowance of the justices. I am informed that the allowance of a rate by the justices is to prevent the possibility of any bogus rates being raised. Under the present conditions it is thought to be best upon the whole to allow the ancient custom to continue.

House adjourned at a quarter past Seven o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 21*st* *June*, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in respect of the following Bill, introduced pursuant to the provisions of The Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, and which the Chairman of Ways and Means had directed to originate in the House of Lords, they have certified that the Standing Orders have been complied with, viz.:—Buckhaven Methil and Innerleven Burgh Extension Bill.

Southampton Gas Bill. Lords Amendment considered, and agreed to.

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill. Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Maryport Harbour Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

Poole Corporation Water Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Bill (by Order); Haslingden Corporation Bill [Lords] (by Order). As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [Lords] (by Order). Read a second time, and committed.

Water Provisional Order Bill. Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill. Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

St. John's (Westminster) Improvement Bill; Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies Bill [Lords]; Hull and Barnsley Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill [Lords]; Trent Navigation Companies Bill [Lords]; Sheffield District Railway Bill [Lords]; Cambrian Railways Bill [Lords]; Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [Lords]. Reported, with an Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Barry Railway Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Rugby Lower School Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment: Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. Bill to be read the third time.

Crellin's Patents Bill [Lords]. Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill to be read the third time.

London Outer Circle Railway Bill. Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

They have agreed to Amendments to—National Assurance Company of Ireland and Yorkshire Fire and Life Insurance Company Bill [Lords]. South Lancashire Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill [Lords].

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against: From Adderbury; Alwick; Headon; Leicester; Nottingham;

Newcastle-on-Tyne; Spennithorne; Stannington; Tuxford; and, Weeley; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law: From Cheetham Hill; Hulme; and, St. Austell; to lie upon the Table.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Petition from York, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

OPEN SPACES BILL.

Petition from Bermondsey, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

PHARMACY BILL.

Petition from Newark, against; to lie upon the Table.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petitions for alteration: From Cambridge; Finsbury; Greenwich (two); Hull; Keswick; Leigh; Liverpool (two); Mid Cumberland; Pudsey (two); South Manchester; Spalding (two); Strand and District (two); Wells; West Bromwich; and, Weston-super-Mare; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

UNEMPLOYED WORKMEN ACT, 1905.

Copy presented, of Regulations made by the Local Government Board under the Act as to the Form of Financial Statement of Distress Committees having the powers of a Central Body established under the Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

FINANCE ACCOUNTS.

Copy presented, of Finance Accounts of the United Kingdom for the year ended 31st March 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 208.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Publication of Report of Local Government Board (Scotland).

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary for Scotland the cause of the delay in issuing to Members the Annual Report of the Local Government Board for Scotland: and will he state when it will be issued.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) The printing of the Report is being completed, and I hope it will be in the hands of hon. Members at the beginning of next week.

Appointments as Postmen reserved for Ex-Telegraph Messengers.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the fact that in addition to the 50 per cent. of vacancies for postmen's appointments reserved for ex-naval and military men, they are held as being eligible for a proportion of the remaining 50 per cent., if they have become assistant postmen; and, seeing that this is a breach of the regulation reserving 50 per cent. of these appointments for ex-telegaph messengers and others, will he state what steps he proposes to take.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Baxton.*) The hon. Member has been misinformed. An ex-soldier becoming an assistant postman is eligible only for a soldier's vacancy on the postman's class, and nothing is allowed to interfere with the reservation for telegraph messengers of 50 per cent. in full of the vacancies as postmen.

Pigeon Shooting in Egypt.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can state whether the notable who gave the British officers permission to shoot pigeons in the Tantah district of Egypt gave the villagers any intimation that this shooting of tame pigeons would take place.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The Answer to this Question is the same as that to the hon. Member's Question No. 2 of to-day.†

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that the pigeons in the district of Tantah, Egypt, which were shot at by the British officers whilst on the march from Cairo to Alexandria, were tame pigeons, the property of the villagers; and will he state why these officers visited this village in the neighbourhood of Tantah for the purpose indicated, seeing that they had no knowledge or habits of the fellaheen.

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† See next Question.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) I am unable to make any statement as to the facts of the case. They cannot be accurately known until the trial of the accused persons, which will be held in public, has been brought to a conclusion. (This Answer applies also to the hon. Member's Question No. 1 of to-day.) †

Disturbance by Chinese Coolies at the Nourse Mine.

MR. MOND (Chester): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to a riot at the Nourse mine on 16th June, caused by 400 Chinese coolies; and whether he can state what was the cause of the attack of these 400 Chinese coolies on the house of the compound manager.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) I have seen a statement in the Press to this effect and will make inquiry.

Outrages by Chinese Coolies.

MR. MOND: To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to a meeting at Rossetenville, a suburb of Johannesburg, on the 17th June, to protest against outrages committed by Chinese coolies; and whether the Government will take steps to carry out the recommendation passed at that meeting, that the Labour Importation Association should be compelled to compensate the victims of Chinese outrages.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) I have seen a statement to this effect in the Press. It does not seem possible to hold the Association, so long as it acts within the law, legally liable for the crimes of individual Chinese.

South African Commission for the Control of the Chinese.

MR. MOND: To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce in Johannesburg on the 15th June, when the President explained that the Chamber refused to appear before the Commission for the control of the Chinese on the ground that the Commissioners had been appointed by the Chamber of Mines; and whether the Government will take steps so that the Commissioners appointed to such Commissions shall have no connection with the mining industry.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) I have seen a press telegram of the nature indicated. The Commission in question was appointed by Sir R. Solomon, the Acting Lieutenant-Governor of the Transvaal, and consisted of the resident magistrate of Pretoria, as chairman, the two principal police officials of the Colony, the superintendent of Foreign labour, the Chinese Consul General, and two gentlemen representing the mines, and the Secretary of State sees no reason to object to its composition in view of the terms of reference.

Lighting and Dredging of the Thames Estuary.

MR. J. D. WHITE (Dumbartonshire): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether in view of the increased silting up of the South West Reach of the Swin between the North East Maplin and the South West Middle, the Trinity House will consider the advisability of improving the lighting and buoying of the Barrow Deep so as to afford an alternative north channel suitable at all times for deep-draught vessels, bound to and from the River Thames; and whether steps will be taken to prevent the dumping of dredgings and other material in the Barrow Deep.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) I am informed by the Elder Brethren of the Trinity House that the Barrow Deep channel is already buoyed for daylight navigation, and that they have under consideration the question of lighting it so as to make it available for traffic by night. As regards the dumping of dredgings and other material in the Barrow Deep, I may say that this was stopped in October last and that a special area for such deposits has now been provided in the Black Deep.

Danger to Shipping by Rocks between Ireland's Eye and Howth Harbour.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been directed to the danger of fishing vessels caused by the flat rocks in the Sound between Ireland's Eye and Howth Harbour; and whether he will cause the proper authority to place a buoy in the place indicated.

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† See preceding Question.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The Board of Trade do not possess the power suggested in the latter part of the Question. I have, however, communicated with the Commissioners of Irish Lights, who inform me that they do not consider that the placing of a buoy in the position indicated is a matter for them to deal with.

Naval Training—Artisan and Artificers Branches.

MR. J. WILLIAMS BENN (Devonport): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether in view of the statement in the Report of the Douglas Committee as to the disappearance of the boatswain and carpenter, any steps will be taken under the new system to train and utilise existing servants in these branches in some kindred employment.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The statement referred to was a suggestion on the part of the Sub-Committee that the duties of the present artisan branches might be rearranged in the future so as to admit of the carrying out of those duties by the artificer branch. Assuming that this suggestion was approved by the Admiralty, the change would take place gradually, and would not involve the discharge of men from the service. If any action be taken, the question of utilising artisans in a new capacity, for which they might be qualified, would be carefully considered. Of course, in making any radical change, existing rights would receive due consideration.

Transfer of Postal Clerks from London to Edinburgh and Dublin—Reduction of Salary.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that women clerks who are transferred from the General Post Office in London to offices in Dublin or Edinburgh have their maximum salaries reduced by £10 per annum in consequence of such transfer, while no reduction is made in the salaries of men clerks similarly transferred; whether the duties of women clerks in the offices in Dublin and Edinburgh are identical with those of women clerks in London; whether this reduction of salary is not a violation of the condition upon which these clerks obtained their appointment; whether the prospects of promotion of these clerks is not very much lessened in in consequence of being transfered to the post offices in Dublin or Edinburgh; and whether he will consider the question with a view to putting all these women clerks, as far as possible, upon the same scale of salaries as to the women clerks in the General Post Office, London.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I may, perhaps, be allowed to refer the hon. Member to the Answer which I gave on the 14th instant to a similar Question relating to transfers between London and Dublin asked by the hon. Member for South Belfast. Transfers to Edinburgh are arranged on the same lines as transfers to Dublin.

Ordance Survey Staff—7th Division (Carlisle).

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON (Northumberland, Tyneside): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether the staff of the 7th Division (Carlisle) of the Ordnance Survey is likely to be reduced in the near future; and whether, in the event of such a reduction being found necessary, the men selected for discharge will be drawn from those with less than fifteen years' service.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) The 7th Division is at present employed in Ireland on the survey of county Lough, and on the completion of this work in two years time the Division will resume revision work in England. This will involve the removal of all the surveyors from the Division, but I hope that it will be possible to continue the services of these men in other capacities or in other Divisions. In the selection of men for discharge, the cases of men with more than fifteen years' service will be most carefully and sympathetically considered, but there is a certain amount of work on the survey which must be always done by youths.

Offences under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act 1893.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS (Glasgow, Camlachie): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, if he will furnish a Return of the complaints coming before that Board under The Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1893, during the last five years, with the names of the persons concerned and a note of the essential points of complaint, for each year separately; also if he will grant a Return of the number of criminal prosecutions which have occurred under this Act during the period, and of the results of each criminal prosecution.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) We could not undertake to furnish a Return of the complaints made to the Board as to the specific cases arising under the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, for the reason that the information given is more or less of a confidential character. The enforcement of the Act, moreover, rests with the local authorities, and it is to those authorities and to the vendors that such complaint would ordinarily be addressed. Information as to the more general representations which we have received as to the working of the Act will be found in the Report and Minutes of Evidence of the recent Departmental Committee. Prosecutions under the Act may be undertaken by county councils without reference to the Board, and we have no information as the number which have taken place. Two applications have been made to the Board for certificates authorising a prosecution under Section 3 of the Act. The certificate was refused in one case and granted in the other, but we were not informed whether proceedings were actually instituted, and, if so, with what result.

Suggested Issue of Large Scale Ordnance Survey Maps of the United Kingdom.

MR. G. GREENWOOD (Peterborough): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, if he can see his way to instruct the Ordnance Survey Department to issue maps of the United Kingdom on the scale of two inches to the statute mile.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) I am afraid it is not possible for us to adopt the suggestion made by my hon. friend. The preparation of a map on the proposed scale would involve a very considerable cost and would take some years to complete. Perhaps, however, he would confer personally with me on the subject.

Position of Clerks to Surveyors of Taxes.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether in view of the fact that out of 600 clerks to surveyors of taxes, 373 had served permanently in such offices for periods ranging from five years to thirty years and upwards, he can explain upon what grounds the Treasury regard such clerkships as only of a temporary nature; whether he is aware that the surveyors of taxes strongly condemn the present system of clerical hire, and recently presented a petition to the Board of Inland Revenue praying for their clerks' establishment, in the interests of the revenue and the public; and whether taking into account the surveyors' recommendation, the lengthy service of the clerks, and the fact that they are engaged upon work of a confidential nature in connection with the income tax, he will institute an inquiry into the status and treatment of these clerks.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The question of substituting established clerks for the personal clerks employed by the surveyors was considered in connection with the surveyors' memorial last year and also on other occasions. For some years a considerable number of established clerks were employed, but the arrangement was found to be unsatisfactory, and was abandoned in 1893. The present system is preferred, not only as being more economical, but also as more convenient for adaptation of the staff to the requirements of the localities.

Rateable Value and Representation of Manchester.

MR. H. J. TENNANT (Berwickshire): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to a Return of the Corporation of the City of Manchester setting forth the rateable value of the various wards, the numbers of limited liability companies in those wards and their rateable value, from which it can be deduced that as much as 45 per cent. of the rateable value is in some cases unrepresented at municipal elections; and whether he can propose any method of altering the system under which representation is so partial and capricious.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I have not seen the Return of the Corporation of Manchester referred to in the Question. I have received particulars sent for the purposes of the Return, moved for by my hon. friend, from which it appears that the rateable value of the premises at Manchester, in respect of the occupation of which no persons are entered in the lists of municipal electors, because the hereditaments are occupied by corporations, or joint stock or other companies, amounts to 32 per cent. of the total rateable value of the city. I am not able to promise to introduce the legislation which would be necessary to alter this state of things.

Religious Processions in Eastern Bengal.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): To ask the Secretary of State of India whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that a Harisankirtan party, consisting of twelve men, and constituting a procession of a purely religious character, were arrested by the police on the 28th May for passing through the streets of Muktagacha, in the Mymensingh district of the province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, and for singing religious songs; and whether, looking to the fact that religious processions of this character have been customary in Muktagacha during the past eighteen years, and that they are now interfered with under the recent orders authorising the police to require licences for public processions, he will issue instructions to the Government of India that religious processions shall not be obstructed by the police.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) As I stated in reply to a Question on the 14th June,† the only restrictions on processions, religious or otherwise, now in force in Eastern Bengal are those imposed by the ordinary law. A procession of the kind referred to would in ordinary circumstances call for no action by the police, but the recent rioting between Hindus and Mahomedans in Mymensingh may have rendered a stricter enforcement of the law necessary.

Publicity of Indian Courts of Justice.

SIR H. COTTON: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the magistrate of Backergunge, in Eastern Bengal and Assam, is in the habit of disposing of criminal cases in his private room, and occasionally in his own private residence, to which the public are not admitted; and whether, inasmuch at this practice has been condemned as irregular by the High Court, and is prejudicial to the administration of justice, he will address the Government of India with a view to putting a stop to it.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have no information as to the existence of the irregular practices to which the hon. Member refers. I hope that the irregularity, if truly stated in the Question, has been dealt with by the local government.

Revaluation of Ireland—Methods of Assesing.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Government will consider the advisability in any proposed revaluation in Ireland, of previously adopting the system of local assessors to act in conjunction with the Commissioner of Valuation as invariably practised in Great Britain; whether he will explain the difference in the adjusting machinery for taxation purposes existing between the two islands; and whether he will arrange, as a sequence of the Local Government Act, that the methods of assessing and revising assessments shall be similar throughout the three Kingdoms.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The systems of valuation in the two countries are so different that no useful comparison can be made between them, but I may mention that in England the cost of valuation for local taxation purposes falls upon the local authorities. In Ireland the work is done by a Government Department and the cost is defrayed mainly by the Exchequer. In this respect, therefore, the present system is favourable to Ireland, and I doubt whether in these circumstances an assimilation to the practice in England would be generally welcomed.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 1130.

Superintendent Registrars and Lists of Deaths.

MR. MACVEAGH: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that a Privy Council Order in 1899 required superintendent registrars to supply for electoral registration purposes annual lists of persons dying within the union; that another Order, issued last November, fixed the remuneration to superintendent registrars at two pence per name; that another Order was issued last February requiring the registrars of births and deaths to furnish the Returns; that last month another Order was issued revoking all previous Orders and requiring the superintendent registrars to collect the information at their own cost and without remuneration; and whether he will direct inquiries to be made with a veiw to ascertaining whether remuneration can be provided, as contemplated by the Order of November.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The facts are substantially as stated in the Question. I understand the amending Order of November 4th, 1905, was passed with the object of imposing the duty in question upon registrars, and of providing remuneration for these officers, but by an oversight the words "superintendent registrar" were inserted instead of the word "registrar," and the Order of February 7th, 1906, was thereupon made with the object of correcting this error. It was subsequently ascertained that no legal power exists for authorising the payment of remuneration for the performance of the duty, and it was therefore found necessary to revoke the Order of February 7th. This was done by the Order of May 18th, 1906, and the outcome of the whole matter is that the performance of the duty, without remuneration, is reimposed upon superintendant registrars as under the original Order of 1899. Further inquiry in the matter is unnecessary. It has been decided definitely that there is no power to authorise payment of remuneration.

Interference of Lady Guardian with discipline of Londonderry Union.

MARQUESS OF HAMILTON (Londonderry): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the attention of the Local Government Board has been drawn to the interference with the discipline in the Londonderry union workhouse, on May 12th last, by a member of the Board opening the door of the punishment ward without authority, and releasing an inmate who had been placed there a short time previously, by the master of the workhouse for disorderly conduct; and what action the Local Government Board propose taking to prevent a recurrence of such unauthorised interference by guardians.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Local Government Board have ascertained that, on the date named, the master of the Londonderry workhouse sent a female inmate to the refractory ward, and ordered that she should be kept there for seven hours. The woman was, however, liberated, after four and a-half hours' detention, by a lady guardian. The board of guardians subsequently expressed their disapproval of the lady guardian's action, and directed that the master should, in future, lock the ward when occupied, and see that the key is in safe keeping. In these circumstances the Local Government Board do not consider action on their part to be necessary.

Nelson Beef Company and Army supplies.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the meat contract for the supply to the troops quartered at London, Woolwich, and Windsor, has been placed with Nelson, Morris, and Company; will he say whether this American firm is amongst those whose manufactured imports to this country have been subjected to serious allegations of condemnation; whether this contract has been secured at the lowest price; whether he can arrange that the Army Council will take precautions to insure that the best quality of fresh meat will be supplied; and whether he can state why preference was given to foreign importers to the exclusion and prejudice of native agriculturists.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The meat contract for these stations has been placed with the Morris Beef Company, of the Central Meat Market, London. I have no information as to whether the American branch of this firm is associated with other Chicago firms in the present controversy. The lowest price secured this contract. Inspection is provided for in the contract so as to secure quality. No preference was given to foreign importers, the contract being placed on price.

Good Conduct Medal for Henry Hulme, late Cheshire Regiment.

MR. R. PEARCE (Staffordshire, Leek): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that Henry Hulme, late quartermaster sergeant Cheshire Regiment, whose discharge is dated December 18th, 1897, and who holds five good conduct medals, and served twenty-one years without an entry in the regimental default sheet for the last eighteen years, has not yet received a good conduct medal, though applied for before discharge, and finally on December 8th 1905, when the captain acting ajdutant, depot Cheshire Regiment, replied that the application was too late and should have been submitted within six months of discharge; and whether, in view of the facts, the delay may be excused and the medal granted.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Under the King's Regulations, recommendations for good conduct medals are to be submitted half-yearly, and to include cases of men discharged within the previous six months. No recommendation has been received in the War Office in connection with Mr. Hulme. If he will apply to the War Office his case shall be investigated.

Date of Publication of Report of the Ecclesiastical Disorders Commission.

DR. HAZEL (West Bromwich): To ask the Prime Minister if he can give any further information as to the probable date of the issue of the Report of the Royal Commission on Ecclesiastical Disorders; and whether, failing the issue of the Report, he is willing to take steps to expedite the separate issue of the evidence taken by the Commission, so that it may be in the hands of Members before or during the discussion in Committee of Clause 4 of the Education Bill.

(*Answered by Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman.*) I am unable to give any further information as to the date of the issue of the Report of the Royal Commission, nor am I in a position to expedite the publication of the evidence, as my hon. friend suggests.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Militia Officers' Allowances.

SIR ROBERT HOBART (Hampshire, New Forest): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the dearth of Militia officers, he will consider the advisability of their travelling expenses to and from their homes, when beyond the confines of the county, to the place of joining being paid.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddingtonshire): A considerable sum of money would be involved by the grant of this concession, and I am afraid that at the present time no funds are available for the purpose.

1st Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment—Master Tailor.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that ex-Sergeant Thomas Pressley, who served as master tailor in the 1st Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment, desired to re-engage for twenty-one years, was ordered by Colonel Maunsell to retire, and the fact that Pressley was given an exemplary discharge, he will call for a further report of this case with the view of his reinstatement, or the production of some evidence in accordance with Army regulations of Pressley's inefficiency or misdemeanour.

*MR. HALDANE: As I have already informed the hon. Member, I have had full inquiries made into this case, and I have satisfied myself that the military authorities concerned had good reasons for refusing to allow this man to extend his service. Mr. Pressley was offered permission to re-engage as a sergeant; though a good workman, he was found to be unfitted for the duties of the appointment of master tailor, who is charged with the supervision of the tailoring work of the regiment. I am not prepared to reopen the case.

Mr. SLOAN: Is it not the case that the man did fill the post for four years, and that the only cause of his losing it was that he went out to the Boer War.

*Mr. HALDANE: No, he was not re-engaged because, in the opinion of those who supervised the work, he was not fitted for the post.

Ammunition for Volunteers.

Mr. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that Volunteer battalions are supplied with small arms ammunition of mixed date and manufacture, and that such ammunition is variable and makes accurate shooting impossible: and whether he will provide that in future all the ammunition supplied to any unit shall be of the same date and source of manufacture.

*Mr. HALDANE: It is necessary to use up the ammunition returned from South Africa after the war. The cartridges are unloaded, the cases recapped and reloaded; proof is then taken and issue is only made on satisfactory results as regards shooting. The date of the manufacture is not known. I will consider whether it can be arranged that cartridges from different makers be kept separate.

Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association.

*Mr. MORTON (Sutherland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association refuse to admit the widows and daughters of officers, who have risen from the ranks, to the houses for officers' widows and daughters at Wimbledon; and will he say whether the association is supported out of regimental funds.

*Mr. HALDANE: The funds of the officers' branch of this association are not supported by regimental subscriptions, and the War Office has no hand in their administration.

*Mr. MORTON: But is the statement as to the widows and daughters of officers who have risen from the ranks correct?

*Mr. HALDANE: I do not know. I am not responsible for the association. It is a private organisation. We do not contribute anything to it.

The Duke of Connaught.

Mr. MORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state in what capacity the Duke of Connaught is visiting the Scandinavian countries; if he is doing so at the public expense; and will he also say what are the duties of His Majesty's Inspector-General of the Forces.

*Mr. HALDANE: His Royal Highness is visiting Sweden to be present at the christening of the grandson of the Crown Prince. I am informed that he is paying any personal expenses incurred while on board the Admiralty yacht. As regards the last part of the Question, my hon. friend will find the duties fully set forth in the Order in Council of 10-8-1904, contained in Cd. 2252 of 1904.

Meat Rations at Ballykinlar Camp.

Captain CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in accordance with a War Office order, tinned beef is to be issued as a ration to the Militia brigade at Ballykinlar Camp, county Down, on Friday the 22nd instant; and whether, in view of the recent revelations concerning the canning of meat, he will give instructions that fresh Irish beef or mutton be supplied to those troops in lieu of the ration mentioned.

*Mr. HALDANE: Issues of meat, whether fresh or preserved, to the Militia Brigade at Ballykinler Camp are arranged locally, and not by the War Office. Orders have, however, been given by the War Office to suspend issues of American brands of preserved meat in Ireland until the report has been received from the officer sent to America to investigate.

Treatment of Zulu Rebels.

Mr. JOWETT (Bradford, W.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any official information showing that native rebels in Natal who have surrendered or been taken prisoners have been sent to work in the Kimberley mines; and, if so, if he proposes to make any representations to the Natal Government on the matter.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): I would refer the hon. Member to the reply which I gave yesterday to a similar Question by the Member for North Salford.†

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Is it not the fact that some of these political prisoners have been sent to Kimberley, and is it not the practice that all convicts sent to Kimberley are worked in the diamond mines for the benefit of the proprietors?

MR. CHURCHILL: In answer to my hon. friend, I can only say that I have no reason to believe that any Natal insurgents have been or are likely to be employed in the Kimberley diamond mines; but the opinion which has been made clear in the House in the conversation which took place at Question time yesterday has been brought to the notice of the Secretary of State, and will be considered. I do not wish to make any further statement on the matter, but my hon. friend may be perfectly sure that it will not be overlooked.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): How soon may we again put a Question on the subject of the employment of these men in the Kimberley mines?

MR. CHURCHILL: Tuesday or Wednesday next week.

Chinese Crime in South Africa.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the fact that, in the week ending 17th June, the following list of crimes and results of crimes committed by Chinese were recorded, viz., two hanged for murder, two tried for keeping a disorderly house in which white women resided, one shot dead while attempting to break into a house in the Heidelburg district, robbery of a house in Rossetenville, a suburb of Johannesburg, where the owner and his wife were maltreated and threatened; and what action, if any, he proposes to take to prevent such occurrences.

MR. CHURCHILL: I have read these statements in the Press, and am making inquiry by telegraph.

The Repatriation Proclamation.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the fact that the Imperial Government is responsible for all charges in connection with payment of expenses to China of any Chinese coolies imported under the Ordinance who are dissatisfied with their engagement, and the confusion which has arisen between the instructions given by the Government and the Chinese translation thereof, the Government will issue a proclamation in plain English of their intentions, and instruct the authorities on the spot to publish the same in the mines, and the translation thereof in Chinese; and also lay the proclamation and Chinese translation upon the Table of the House.

MR. CHURCHILL: As I told the hon. Member for Bath yesterday,‡ this matter is the subject of inquiry and consideration.

MR. CATHCART WASON: Is the hon. Gentleman going to give us a copy of this proclamation?

MR. CHURCHILL: I shall be very glad to send the hon. Gentleman one for his information.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I want to see the Papers on the Table.

MR. CHURCHILL: I think the proclamation as it was read out by me to the House is to be found in *Hansard*.§ As to the version posted in the mines, we have consulted a distinguished Chinese scholar, and we shall be able to compare the one with the other in two or three days.

MR. CATHCART WASON: Is it not the intention of the Government to issue another proclamation on this subject?

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† See (4) *Debates*, clix., 168.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clix., 167.

§ See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 70.

MR. CHURCHILL: That is a decision which cannot be taken until the two versions have been examined and compared.

MR. J. WARD: Does not the hon. Gentleman think it would be advisable to draw up a proclamation in English with all the promises and pledges of the Government on this subject, and then have it translated into Chinese?

MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.): And will the House have an opportunity of discussing this proclamation again?

MR. CHURCHILL: The matter is under consideration at this moment, but before we are able to announce any decision to the House we must have an opportunity of seeing whether any alterations or additions were made in the process of translating from English into Chinese. If that should be established, I recognise the fact that the question of the proclamation generally will come once again into the area of consideration.

MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): May I ask the hon. Gentleman who was the Chinese authority who translated this proclamation, and whether the hon. Gentleman is aware that the Secretary to the Chinese Legation says that he is unable to find any competent authority to translate into Chinese the version of the proclamation which the hon. Gentleman read to this House.

MR. CHURCHILL: I cannot give the name of the Chinese authority who translated the proclamation, because I do not know it; but if the hon. Member will ask a Question next week, I hope to be able to give him an Answer; I cannot believe it is beyond the power of the Government to get a Chinese translation.

Swadeshi Movement in Bengal.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam, directing the readmission of students in that province who had been expelled from school, is limited in its operation to the Dacca and Rungpore districts; to the fact that four students of the Chanchal Sideswari higher English school, in the district of Maldah, were lately expelled for having taken part in a Swadeshi movement, and that their names, together with the names of their fathers, guardians, and of the places of their residence were officially forwarded to all headmasters of Government and aided and unaided schools in the province, with a view to prevent the admission of the boys into any other school; and whether he will issue instructions that the orders for the readmission of students who have been expelled on so-called political considerations shall be extended to these Maldah boys, and be made general in their application to the whole province.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. JOHN MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): I am not aware of all the facts mentioned in the Question, but I will make immediate inquiry on the subject.

Massacres of Jews in Russia.

MR. THORNE (West Ham, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to the unchecked massacre of Jews at Biolostoc now going on; whether he has observed the execution by hanging of children of tender age by the Russian Government at Riga; whether he has been informed of the systematic persecution of innocent people at Moscow, Kieff, Warsaw, and other large towns; and whether, seeing that this country broke off diplomatic relations with Servia, and constantly remonstrates with Turkey for less serious outrages, he will consider whether the time has come that Great Britain should protest formally against the continuance of such practices by the Russian Government, and break off diplomatic relations until they are put an end to.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): The Answer is in the negative.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been drawn to the outbreak of Jewish massacres in Western Russia in which the Russian authorities are implicated; and whether, in consequence, he will reconsider the propriety of sending

British warships at the present moment on a friendly official visit to Russian Baltic ports.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I cannot add anything to the Answer I gave the other day to the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil.†

Attack on British Officers in Egypt.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is now in a position to give any further information as to the attack on British officers in Egypt; whether the officers were in uniform or in the execution of any military duty when the affray took place; whether he can give the text of that portion of the Khedivial decree under which the accused are to be sent for trial before the special tribunal; who decides in such cases whether accused are to be tried before the special tribunal or the ordinary courts; and what provision has been made for the defence of the prisoners.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The officers were in uniform when the affray took place. The text of the sixth Article of the Khedivial decree (translated from the French) is as follows:—"All crimes and misdemeanours committed by natives against soldiers or officers of the British Army shall continue, in principle, to be tried by the native tribunals. They shall only be dealt with by the special tribunal in special cases when the Agent and Consul of Great Britain shall, at the request of the General Commanding the army of occupation, and in agreement with him, so demand of the Minister for Foreign Affairs." Article 4 of the decree gives the accused the right to have an advocate

Tax Assessment and Collection.

MR. SEARS (Cheltenham): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if his attention has been drawn to the following Reports of the Board of Inland Revenue, in each of which they condemn the system of assessing and collecting taxes by means of parochial officers: 2nd Report, 1858, pages 24 and 25; 4th Report, 1860, page 23; 5th Report, 1861, page 19; 6th Report, 1862, pages 18 and 19; 8th Report, 1864, page 21; and 12th Report, 1869, page 29; if he is aware that a Bill was introduced at the instance of the Board in 1863, and that at page 21 of their 8th Report in 1864 they expressed their regret that it was not passed, and stated that by the employment of Government instead of parochial officers they hoped to effect a saving of probably not less than £50,000 a year, besides relieving the taxpayer of the responsibility to make good the defalcations of parochial collectors; and what steps he proposes to take to give effect to the opinions expressed in favour of reform.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): No steps are contemplated for giving effect to the opinions referred to, of which the most recent appears to have been expressed nearly forty years ago, and which have no application to the existing state of things.

MR. SEARS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will say what was the effect of the transfer of certain duties in 1867 from assessment and collection by parochial officers to Government officers; whether he is aware that the number of dog licences issued increased in ten months from 445,000 to 828,000 (11th Report, Board of Inland Revenue, 1867, p. 14), and in ten years to 1,362,000 (21st Report, 1877, p. 21); and is he aware that increased revenue would follow the transfer of further duties to Government officials from the more accurate assessment and prompt collection of taxes still in the hands of parochial officers.

MR. ASQUITH: The transfer of duties connected with dog licences in 1867 was a transfer from one set of Government officials to another, and not from parochial officers to Government officers. These is no reason to suppose that increased revenue would result from a change in the present system of collection of taxes.

MR. SEARS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he is aware that the cost of the services of clerks to the local tax commissioners and of parochial assessors and collectors of taxes, which twenty years ago was £295,000 a year, is now £329,000; and whether he will take steps to inquire into this expenditure, and to ascertain the annual saving in public expense in employing Government officers that may be effected, seeing that it was estimated by the Board of Inland Revenue in their 8th Report, 1864, page 21, that a saving of £50,000 a year would have resulted from such a change.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 1366.

MR. ASQUITH: The present Board of Inland Revenue are not in a position to question the opinions formed and expressed by their predecessors in 1864 in respect of the changes which at that time were under consideration. But, in the circumstances of the present day, the Board are strongly of opinion: (a) that so long as the assessment of income-tax is entrusted to bodies of unpaid Commissioners, it is essential that these Commissioners should be provided with the services of competent clerks, who can advise them in regard to the law of income-tax; (b) that the remuneration at present paid to such clerks is not excessive; and (c) that no economy would result from substituting official for parochial collectors of taxes.

Ejectment Orders.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the varying decisions given by the stipendiary magistrates and bench of justices in the London area respecting ejectment orders against householders, lodgers, and tenement occupiers, he will issue an order that in future the uniform time of twenty-one days shall be adopted in these matters.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I understand there is a difference of opinion on this question, which leads to a difference of practice, but which could be settled only by a judicial decision. I have no power to settle it, nor to issue any order on the subject.

*MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): Will the right hon. Gentleman instruct the metropolitan police that in carrying out these orders, they must not deposit the goods in the street, and so break one law in executing another?

MR. GLADSTONE: I do not think I have any power on this subject.

Metropolitan Police Holidays.

MR. SEAVERNS (Lambeth, Brixton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is now a balance from the Police Rate of £700,000 in the hands of the Commissioner of Police; and whether this balance and the improved financial position resulting from the recent quinquennial assessment will receive his attention in his consideration of the possibility of granting to the members of the Metropolitan Police Force one day's rest in seven.

MR. GLADSTONE: I agree that it is essential to consider the financial position of the Metropolitan Police Fund in connection with the subject mentioned in the question, but the result of that consideration is unfortunately not what the hon. Member desires. On March 31st last, when the half-yearly receipts from the parishes had just come in there was a net balance of £500,000 to credit of the Metropolitan Police and Police Pension Funds; but the balance in hand had fallen on Monday last to £152,921; and this amount, together with any receipts which may become available in the interval, is insufficient to meet the expense of the Metropolitan Police Service for the next eight weeks, that is, until August 10th, when the next Rate Warrants become payable. It will be necessary during this period to borrow temporarily from the Bank of England. Further, the increased income of the fund for the current financial year resulting from the growth of the assessable value of the Metropolitan Police District, is estimated at £55,600 while the increased charge for the pay of the force resulting from the much needed augmentations which have been recently sanctioned amounts to £56,000.

Alien Immigrants.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, seeing that it is impossible to deport aliens in some cases where orders have been made for their expulsion, owing to the difficulty in establishing their nationality, he will consider the advisability of making want of nationality a ground for refusing their admission to this country.

MR. GLADSTONE: I am not prepared to propose the amendment of the Aliens Act, which would be necessary to carry out this suggestion.

Workshops as Sleeping Apartments.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has any official information showing that the number of domestic workshops in the clothing trade used as sleeping apartments is increasing; and, if so, whether he will consider the advisability of using the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Factory Act, 1901, for the purpose of substantially increasing the cubic space required in such places.

MR. GLADSTONE: I am afraid I have no official information on this subject, nor should I have any power to deal with the matter under Sub-section 3 of Section 3 of the Factory Act, as domestic workshops are expressly excluded from the operation of that provision. I may point out, however, that any house or part of a house so overcrowded as to be injurious to the health of the inmates constitutes a nuisance under the Public Health Act, with which the local authority have full power to deal.

Aliens in the East End of London.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, now the Aliens Act has been in operation for nearly six months, he proposes to again revise the regulations framed under it, and make them more effective for the purpose of excluding more of those who compete with the workers in the East End of London, and to benefit such aliens as may still be allowed to come in.

MR. GLADSTONE: I cannot say more than that I shall continue to watch carefully the working of the Aliens Act.

Women's Suffrage Disturbance.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the proceedings at Marylebone Police Court this morning, when Miss Theresa Billington was fined £10, or two months, on a charge of assaulting the police; whether the alleged assault was only committed this morning, and, as a consequence, the accused was unable to make provision for being legally represented; whether the sentence is not extreme; and whether he will stay the sentence till he has made an inquiry, in consideration of all the circumstances involved.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): On the same subject, may I ask whether my right hon. friend is aware that up to as late as this morning the Metropolitan Police had been unable to deal with the riotous behaviour of certain women in Cavendish Square; whether he is aware that this method of trying to promote the cause of women's suffrage meets with the deepest and most outspoken disapproval of the mass of the advocates of that reform, both women and men; and whether he is satisfied that the measures now taken by the Metropolitan Police are sufficient to preserve order?

MR. KEIR HARDIE: I desire to ask whether it is in order for an hon. Member to bring a charge of riotous proceedings against persons who are not present to defend themselves.

*MR. SPEAKER: I did not catch the hon. Member's first Question; the second seemed to be out of order, and the third seemed to be in order.

MR. GLADSTONE: In answer to the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil, I received his letter only five minutes ago, and I have therefore no information to enable me to answer his Question. I therefore suggest that he should put it down for Monday. In regard to the Question of my hon. friend, my attention has been called to the circumstances of this case. I am not quite sure how much of the Question is in order. All I can do now is to say that I am informed that the police did take proceedings this morning against certain women, and I trust there will be no renewal of the disturbance.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: In view of the fact that this lady has been sent to prison, will not the right hon. Gentleman cause inquiries to be made, so as to be able to reply to a Question which I shall put to him to-night on the Motion for the

Adjournment? The matter is one of urgency. Does not the right hon. Gentleman consider two months' imprisonment a most excessive sentence for such a trivial offence?

MR. GLADSTONE: I have no power at all to interfere with any judicial decision, except when I am of opinion that the prerogative of mercy should be used. I cannot interfere as the hon. Member suggests, and I can hold out no hope that I shall be able to answer the hon. Member's Question on the Adjournment.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Inasmuch as the alleged offence took place at ten o'clock this morning, and the trial between eleven and twelve, so that the accused person had no opportunity of preparing a defence, will the right hon. Gentleman say whether such precedure is customary in the police courts?

MR. GLADSTONE: It is customary in cases brought before the London police-courts summarily, where the magistrate considers they ought to be dealt with summarily.

Scathwaite Waterworks Accident.

MR. J. WARD: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to an accident at the new waterworks, Scathwaite Tarn, near Barrow, on May 21st from an explosion, killing two workmen and seriously injuring three others; whether his Department were officially represented at the inquest; and, if so, what Report, if any, has been received upon the subject; and whether, in view of the frequency of these explosions upon public works and the injury caused by them, he will consider the advisability of framing legislation to regulate the use of explosives upon such works.

MR. GLADSTONE: I beg to answer this question on behalf of my right hon. friend. The accident referred to was reported to the Inspector of Mines and the inquest was attended by the assistant inspector. I have received a Report from H.M. Inspector of Explosives from which it appears that the explosion was caused by boring into an unexplored portion of a previous charge, a not uncommon cause of accident, attributable, I am sorry to say, in many cases to personal carelessness. The use of explosives in mines and quarries is already regulated. The question of extending protective provisions to railway workings and other unregulated places shall receive my consideration.

Patent Specifications.

MR. J. D. WHITE (Dumbartonshire): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the statement made on page 8 of the Annual Report of the Patent Office for 1905 that, by consulting the abridgments of British patent specifications, an inventor is now enabled to make a complete fireside search for all inventions prior to 1901 which might invalidate his own; and whether he will consider the advisability of qualifying this statement, in view of the fact that such invalidating may result from anticipation in any of the foreign specifications to which the public has access at the Patent Office Library as well as in many other ways which are outside the scope of the abridgments.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): The inventions dealt with in the part of the Report in which the passage in question occurs are inventions patented in this country, and I think that any one reading the passage together with its context would understand it to refer solely to inventions protected by British patents. Read in this sense, the passage is correct as it stands.

Indian Mail Service.

MR. LAIDLAW (Renfrewshire, E.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if, in view of the fact that under present arrangements, delays frequently take place in the arrival of the Indian mails in this country, through much time being lost between Port Said and Brindisi, he will in the next contract, whilst imposing a penalty for delay beyond contract time, offer a reward for earlier delivery, so that it may be to the interest of the steamship company to make good time rather than to slow down in order to save coal; and also whether he will in the new contract of next year stipulate for an accelerated mail service between Bombay and Brindisi so as to give delivery in London early on Friday, in order that urgent correspondence may be answered on the same day.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I do not think it would be advisable to offer premiums for arrivals in advance of the time fixed by the mail contract, since it is more important to obtain a regular service at a high rate of speed than to encourage special rapidity on particular voyages, with resulting irregularity in the time of arrival. Future arrangements for the Indian Mail service will depend to a large extent on the replies to the invitations to tender issued not long ago; and I am not now prepared to commit myself in any way as to the duration of the transit.

Register of Teachers.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University): I beg to ask the President of Education what is the total number of names now entered on Column B. of the of the Register of Teachers; and how many of these have been entered since September 30th, 1905.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. LOUGH, Islington, W.): The total number of names registered in Column B. up to to-day is:—Under the permanent clauses of the Regulations 264; under the temporary clauses of the Regulations, 11,028; Total 11,292. Of these the number registered since September 30th is:—Under the permanent clauses of the Regulations, 59; under the temporary clauses of the Regulations, 1,244; Total 1,303.

Women on Education Authorities.

*MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he proposes to introduce into the Education Bill Amendments which shall restore to women the right to be elected on education authorities, of which they were deprived by the Education Act of 1902.

MR. LOUGH: The Board of Education are in full sympathy with the hon. Member in desiring to see women given a responsible position in the direction of public education. Their exclusion from the present local education authorities (except as possibly co-opted members on their education committees) is one of the results of the last Government's educational legislation which is, I believe, very widely deplored. But it is one which cannot be remedied in an Education Bill, since the remedy is only to be achieved by a fundamental alteration of all our long-standing and numerous Local Government laws. This is a matter which is not within the province of the Board of Education.

*MR. LEIF JONES: Will the hon. Gentleman consider the desirability of establishing directly elected *ad hoc* authorities on which women would be eligible for election on the same terms and by the same electors as men?

MR. LOUGH: That would require a great alteration in the present arrangements.

Wages on Government Contracts.

MR. O'GRADY: I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether representations have been made to him respecting the conditions of employment in the wood working department of Messrs. Waygood and Company, London, contractors to His Majesty's Government, and who have recently erected lifts for the new War Office and other Government buildings; whether the representations prove that such conditions preclude members of the cabinet makers and joiners' trade unions from accepting employment from the firm in question; and, if so, what action he intends taking in the matter?

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale): The facts referred to by the hon. Member have been brought to my notice. I have made an opportunity of bringing the representatives of the firm and the trade union together in conference. I have made representations to Messrs. Waygood which I hope may produce a solution of the difficulties which I trust will be of advantage to all those concerned.

The Ventilation of the House.

During Questions,

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said he did not know whether the First Commissioner of Works was aware of the presence of sewer gas in the House. The same thing occurred yesterday. The air was in a poisonous state. Could nothing be done to purify it? He believed that on a previous occasion, when the same thing occurred, a short adjournment was moved and carried for the purpose of purifying the atmosphere.

MR. HARCOURT: I can tell the hon. Member what has happened. Steam tugs sometimes pass near the Terrace, where the intake of air is, and it occasionally happens that a barge laden with manure passes, and the impure air is taken in. I hope that in a few minutes the trouble will be removed.

MR. DILLON later asked the First Commissioner of Works if he could now make a statement with regard to the unpleasant incident in connection with ventilation to which his attention had been drawn.

MR. HARCOURT: Yes, sir. I went down to the Terrace at once, and was able to trace the offender. It was a barge of gas liquor being taken down the river for the disposal of the contents in the sea. The same barge passed down at the same time yesterday, and gave rise to a similar complaint. I will endeavour to make arrangements with the gas company to adopt some other hour.

Morningside Asylum.

MR. STEWART (Greenock): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he will now make further inquiry into the circumstances attending the escape and recapture of the lunatic Patan, and his attack on Ex-Bailie Mitchell, at Greenock, on May 18th, in view of the unsatisfactory statements of the Morningside Asylum authorities, which traverse the explicit declarations of Superintendent Christie, Sergeant Cunningham, and Constables M'Aulay and Cameron, of the Greenock police, to the effect that, on his arrest, Patan was wearing institution clothing; and if, as stated by theMorningside Asylum officials, they were ignorant of the fact that the lunatic Paton was in correspondence with Captain Angus, Mr. Mitchell, and other prominent Greenock citizens, whether he will inquire into the neglect on the part of the asylum authorities in allowing dangerous lunatics to correspond with the outside world without the censorship, supervision, or even knowledge of the asylum officials.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): I have made further inquiries, and am informed that Paton was wearing institution clothing when he escaped and when he was brought back. No letters from him to Captain Angus, Mr. Mitchell, or other Greenock citizens were seen by any asylum official or known to have been sent from the asylum. It is quite impossible to prevent patients who are so far sensible and acute in mind from getting letters posted in a modern asylum. About 300 visitors come every week to see their relatives, and so letters are frequently sent out without the knowledge of the authorities. Paton was not put in admission papers as a "dangerous lunatic," and had never assulted anyone at the asylum. Recently he was a good deal better mentally in some respects.

MR. STEWART: Will the right hon. Gentleman censure the authorities of the asylum for having put him in possession of information which was contrary to the facts?

MR. SINCLAIR: I will compare the two Answers, and if there is ground for censure, there shall be censure. I think, however, there was a misunderstanding about the description of the clothing. I shall be glad to confer with the hon. Member.

Scottish Teachers' Pensions.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether, pending the Amendment of the Teachers Superannuation Act, he will allocate a part of the money which falls to the Scottish Education Department as the equivalent of grants made to England, to supplement the pensions of those teachers who have been retired since the introduction of the Superannuation Act.

Mr. SINCLAIR: In view of the fact that in the Teachers Superannuation Act, Parliament has seen fit to prescribe specifically the conditions and amounts of pensions to teachers, it would not be proper to apply public monies to this purpose except in terms of the Act dealing with the subject.

In reply to Mr. Cathcart Wason,

Mr. SINCLAIR said the Department in this matter were acting on precedent. There was no real method of dealing with it except by legislation.

Mr. CATHCART WASON: That is exactly what we are asking for.

Irish Land Purchase—Judicial Agreements.

Mr. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.) had given notice of the following Question, the answering of which was postponed: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that some landlords are, for the purpose of obtaining public money under the Land Act of 1903, by means of agreements called judicial, but never approved by any Court, eluding inspection and selling within the zones of that Act holdings to which the Land Acts, used legitimately, do not apply; and, seeing that embarrassed tenants will not voluntarily expose this practice, will the Estates Commissioners ascertain the date of such an agreement in every case, disallow all signed since 1902, and have the holdings inspected as non-judicial.

Mr. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S): When inspectors inspect these estates, is their attention directed to the necessity of ascertaining whether or not the tenants are in arrear with their rents, and whether they are free agents, or acting under duress?

Mr. BRYCE: If the hon. Member will look at the rules he will see what the instructions are on this point.

Barrow (Fenit) Tenants Grievances.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that injury is done at Barrow, Fenit, to the houses and lands of purchased tenants by drifting sand; whether, if nothing can be done to protect these tenants, they will still be compelled to pay the annuities for their holdings, which are considerably reduced in value; and whether another independent engineer will be sent to report on the matter.

Mr. BRYCE: It appears to be the fact that a certain amount of injury has been caused by drifting sand to the holdings of two or three tenants at Barrow who have purchased under the Land Acts, but, as I informed the hon. Member on Thursday last,† there are no funds at the disposal of the Government which could properly be applied to abating the evil. The case appears to be one in which the tenant purchasers themselves should endeavour to devise a remedy. I have no objection, however, to ask the Board of Works if they could have the place examined by their engineer, with the object of assisting the tenants with advice, but it should be clearly understood that no other assistance may be counted upon. The Land Commission consider that they are legally bound to continue collecting the annuities.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL: As a considerable area of land has been covered by sand, cannot some reduction be made in the annuity?

Mr. BRYCE: That is a question for the Land Commissioners to determine. I do not think much land is covered by sand.

Loans for Artisans' Dwellings.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that urban authorities who want to borrow money for the building of aritsans' dwellings have to pay interest at the rate of 4 per cent. for forty years, and 4¼ for fifty years, exclusive of sinking fund, with the result that it is impossible for urban authorities in Ireland, without overburdening the rates, to effect any large improvement in the housing accommodation for the artisan and working classes; and whether, seeing that while land has been relieved of a portion of its local taxation under the Act of 1898, the whole of the landlords' share, no relief has been given in towns, and in view of the rates paid in Irish towns, the need for better and cheaper housing accommodation, steps will be taken to enable urban authorities to borrow money for housing at the same rate as it is proposed to be loaned for the building of agricultural labourers' cottages.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 1157.

MR. BRYCE: I understand that the rates now charged for loans to local bodies are such as are necessary to keep the local Loans Fund self-supporting, and these rates have not been found so high as to deter local bodies from embarking on extensive schemes for new artisans' dwellings. I am informed that the Board of Works are still making loans for the purpose both to local authorities and private companies, and although the Board impose a limit on the rents which may be charged for the houses, they are aware that the schemes promoted by the latter class have proved remunerative. I have already indicated that it is the intention of the Government at a convenient opportunity to consider whether any Amendments of the law relating to the housing of the working classes in the towns of Ireland may be necessary. I cannot at present, as I have already told other hon. Members, make any more definite statement on the subject.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: Would it not be possible by a Departmental arrangement to reduce the rate of interest to 3 per cent.

MR. BRYCE: I could not answer that Question without first communicating with the Board of Works and the Treasury.

Agricultural and Technical Schemes.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland will the Return of Local Contributions to Agricultural and Technical Schemes be available for hon. Members before the Vote is taken for the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction.

MR. BRYCE: The distribution of copies of the Return in question is not a matter for which I am responsible, but I have ascertained from the Department concerned that copies will be distributed in the course of the day.

Untenanted Lands.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland to state by whom is the material for the Return of Untenanted Land being collected; what precautions are taken to make the Return full and accurate, and especially to verify an owner's assertion that any particular land is demesne or is tenanted, when *prima facie* it is neither; and can he now fix the date at which the Return will be ready.

MR. BRYCE: The Return in question is being prepared by the Commissioner of Valuation from the valuation lists for the present year, in which the area and valuation of every agricultural holding in Ireland is set out. The Commissioner informs me that every care is being taken to make the return accurate and complete, and he anticipates that it will be finished by the end of the present month.

Tinned Meats in Irish Public Institutions.

MR. HALPIN (Clare, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, considering the facts that have come to light regarding imported tinned meats, and the danger attaching to the use of the same, he will give instructions to all the public institutions under his control to discontinue the use of the said meats, which is one of the chief causes of the abnormal death rate from consumption in the British Isles and the spreading of diseases unknown before the establishment of the foreign tinned-meat trade.

MR. BRYCE: Without offering an opinion upon the point raised in the concluding part of the Question, I may inform the hon. Member that tinned meats are not used in Irish prisons. The management of district lunatic asylums is vested in committees of the county councils, and I am informed that tinned meats do not appear in any of the fixed dietary scales of these institutions. As regards workhouses, the Local Government Board are of opinion that boards of guardians in Ireland may safely be relied upon to take proper precautions as to the use of tinned meats, but, as a matter of fact, this class of food is not used to any appreciable extent in Irish workhouses.

MR. HALPIN: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman that if tinned meats are to be used in the public institutions under his control he will give instructions to have the pure unadulterated tinned meats of Shaw and Denny, of Limerick, advertised for by these institutions? Then the poor inmates could be certain that no human flesh would be mixed up with their food. [Laughter.]

MR. BRYCE: I think I have informed the hon. Member that I did not think tinned meats were being used, at any rate to any extent, in the institutions to which he alludes, nor do I believe to any considerable extent in the institutions under the local authorities.

Drumtullagh National School.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in 1905 a site was secured for a teachers' residence in connection with Drumtullagh national school, county Antrim, that the manager of the school applied to the Board of Works for a loan to erect the residence, that the application was accepted on the conditions that the vesting order be deposited with the Board, which is impossible until the estate from which the site has been granted is sold; and whether, in view of the fact that years may elapse before the estate will be sold, and that the Board of Works have accepted sureties for the loan, he will order it to be granted forthwith.

MR. BRYCE: This Question should be addressed to my hon. friend the Secretary to the Treasury, who answers for the Board of Works.

Manchester Estate Evicted Tenant.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Collen, who purchased by auction an evicted holding on the Manchester estate, on March 25th, 1904, communicated to the Estates Commissioners his willingness to surrender the holding with the view of having the evicted tenant reinstated; and whether, in view of the fact that eighteen months have elapsed since the Commissioners promised to send their inspector to examine the farm, and that they have not yet done so, he can explain the cause of such delay.

*MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners have been informed by Mr. Collen that he is willing that Samuel Bainey, the evicted tenant referred to, should be restored. Proceedings for the sale of the estate upon which the holding is situate are before the Commissioners, but the turn of the estate for inspection has not yet come. When the estate is being inspected, the Commissioners will have the holding inspected and reported on.

MR. SLOAN: Do I understand the right hon. Gentleman to say the time has not come for inspecting this particular estate?

*MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners are tremendously overworked, and they are obliged to take the estates in a certain order; if they departed from that it would be unfair to the other applicants. They will deal with this case directly they can.

Road Accommodation at Boyle.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the district of Chasefield, situate near Kilfree Junction, Boyle, forms a portion of the De Frene, county Sligo, estate, purchased some time ago by the Congested Districts Board, and that the poor inhabitants of this congested district are in a deplorable condition owing to want of road accommodation; whether he is aware that the Board's engineer, Mr. Dodd, visited the place, and, seeing the urgency of the case, had a road opened and work started on August 4th, 1905, which work was, ten days after, abruptly abandoned and never since resumed, notwithstanding representations since made to the Board; and, if so, will he state why the operations were discontinued, and when work will be resumed on this road.

*MR. BRYCE: The Congested Districts Board were unable to proceed with the proposed road on the De Freyne estate in consequence of objection made by a tenant through whose holding the road was to pass. When the estate becomes vested in the Board, they will have power to overrule the tenant's objection and proceed with the work.

Earl Fitzwilliam's Tenants.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is a fact that any and, if so, how many of the tenants who have signed agreements to purchase their holdings from Earl Fitzwilliam have been legally proceeded against because of their failure to pay the interest due on the amount of the purchase money; and, if so, whether the Estates Commissioners have made any inquiry into the solvency of those tenants and into their ability to pay the instalments when the sales to them are completed.

*MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that out of 655 tenant purchasers on the estate referred to who were liable to interest on the purchase money to November 1st last, all have paid save four, against whom proceedings are pending. The Commissioners make due inquiries into the security for the advances and into the means of the tenants in all cases which do not come within the zones.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state how many of the 1,055 tenants who have agreed to purchase their holdings from Earl Fitzwilliam were first-term tenants, how many were second term tenants, how many were non-judicial tenants, and how many of them were non-judicial tenants on January 1st, 1903; and whether any, and, if so, how many signed agreements out of court to become judicial tenants within twelve months previous to the date upon which they signed agreements to purchase.

*MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that of the 1,055 cases mentioned 189 were cases in which judicial rents were fixed or agreed to prior to August, 1896, 754 were fixed or agreed to since August, 1896, and 112 were cases of non-judicial rents. The Commissioners could not, without a detailed examination of the 1,055 agreements, state how many of the tenants were non-judicial on January 1st, 1903, or how many signed agreements out of court to become judicial tenants within twelve months previous to the dates upon which they signed agreements to purchase. Such an examination would involve a great amount of labour and much of the time of the staff to the delay of other current business, and the Commissioners do not consider that any result commensurate with the labour involved would be attained.

Massy Estate, Macroom.

MR. SHEEHAN (Cork County, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the circumstances which exist on the Massy Estate, Macroom, and which have so far hindered and hampered all efforts at negotiation for purchase on behalf of the tenants; is he aware that Mr. W. H. H. Massy, who had a life interest in the estate, parted with it under deed, dated January 9th, 1899, to his brother, Mr. J. B. W. Massy, and that he now receives an annual income from the latter of £550, to be increased on the death of an annuitant, and that there is a dispute between the brothers as to who should receive the bonus in the event of a sale taking place; and will he state whether this is a case in which the Estates Commissioners could exercise their intervention under the recent regulations of the Lord-Lieutenant with a view to arranging the difficulty which exists between the owners.

*MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they are not aware of the matters alleged in the Question, nor have they been approached on behalf of the tenants of the estate referred to. It would appear from the Question that the difficulties in arranging a sale are caused by differences between the owners themselves, and not by differences between the owners and the tenants, and it does not appear to the Commissioners that they can take any steps in the matter at present.

Largydonnell Land Case

MR. DOLAN (Leitrim, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have yet reached a decision regarding the holding of Patrick McGlone, of Aghanlish, Largydonnell, county Leitrim, which they compelled him to sell to them at a price which is 38½ years purchase of the rent fixed by the county court judge.

*MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that the reply is in the negative. They are considering the legal questions involved. They wish it to be added that the statement in the Question does not, in their view, correctly describe the position.

Labourers Acts Loans.

MR. FFRENCH (Wexford, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieuutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Wexford County Council at their last meeting passed a resolution suggesting that the rate of interest on existing loans should be revised, so that unions which loyally worked the Labourers' Acts in the past would repay the instalments on these loans on the same terms as those provided by the new Bill; and whether he can hold out any hope that he will be able to see his way to amend the Labourers' Bill in the direction indicated in the Resolution.

*MR. BRYCE: I am afraid that it would not be possible to adopt the suggestion contained in the Resolution referred to, but the matter is one for the Treasury rather than for me, and if the hon. Member wishes to put any further questions on the subject, I think he had better address one of the Ministers representing that Department.

Inspectors of Lunatics' Reports.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland when the Report of the inspectors of lunatics will be laid upon the Table; and whether he is aware that latterly such Reports have not been issued until after the rising of Parliament, so that there is no opportunity of referring to them when the Estimates are under discussion.

*MR. BRYCE: The Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums inform me that they hope to present their Report in the course of the coming month. The delay which has occurred in preparing the Report in recent years has been due to the difficulty of obtaining the necessary financial Returns from the various asylums. The inspectors have now made arrangements under which the financial Returns to be included in their annual Reports will relate to an earlier period than heretofore, and they anticipate that they will be able to present their Reports without delay in future.

Killavallen (Cork) Schoolhouse.

*MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork County, N.E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will explain the cause of delay, on the part of the Commissioners of National Education, Ireland, in taking into consideration applications for building grants for the erection of schoolhouses, having regard to the fact that many old schoolhouses are in a dilapidated condition, and have been condemned by the inspectors of the board; whether his attention has been called to the condition of the schoolhouse at Killavallen, county Cork, concerning which an inspector reported to the Board of National Education, six years ago, that the building was positively dangerous, and to the fact that although the manager, at the urgent request of the Board, has provided a site for a double schoolhouse, and made an application in due course for a building grant, he has been recently informed that the Board are not in a position to further consider his application; and whether, seeing that the state of this schoolhouse is such that it will require to be closed on the approach of winter, he will represent to the Board of National Education the necessity of making a grant in this case so that a new schoolhouse may be provided without further delay.

MR. BRYCE: The Commissioners of National Education inform me that they are aware of the unsatisfactory condition of the Killavullen schoolhouse, and that the site provided by the manager for a new building has been approved by the Commissioners and the Board of Works. The general question of building grants has not yet been definitely settled, but the Irish Government are prepared to recommend urgent cases, such as that of Killavullen, to the favourable consideration of the Treasury, without waiting for a settlement of the general question; and I will communicate further with the Commissioners on the subject with the object of arranging that this case may at once be dealt with.

MR. DILLON: Arising out of that answer may I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether in his opinion this most vital question will ever be settled. It has now been the subject of communication between the Board of Education and the Treasury for more than six years, and although we have been repeatedly promised a settlement, it has not yet been reached.

*MR. BRYCE said he had given great attention to this matter for a very long time, and very substantial progress had been made towards a settlement.

Cornamona School Teacher.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a principal teacher in the, Cornamona national school, county Galway. is on the records of the Commissioners of National Education as Michael O'Malley, son of Thomas O'Malley and Catherine O'Malley, of Kilmilkin, although the same individual was formerly two years monitor of the Leehane national school, at which time his official description was Michael John O'Malley, the son of Michael O'Malley and Sarah Joyce; and, if so, whether the Commissioners will institute an inquiry into the genuineness or otherwise of the birth certificate which was submitted by the said Michael O'Malley when he made application for the position of principal teacher.

*MR. BRYCE: The Commissioners of National Education inform me that the recorded name of the teacher of Cornamona boys' national school is Michael O'Malley, and that they have recently received a complaint to the effect that this teacher produced at the time of his appointment a certificate of age which did not relate to himself. The matter is at present under inquiry by the senior inspector of the district.

Labourers' Cottage Schemes.

MR. SHEEHAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that there are some rural districts in Ireland, as for instance the Cork rural district, in which the councils have perfected and obtained the sanction of the Local Government Board to new schemes of labourers' cottages; and whether, in the interests of the labourers whose representations have passed the necessary inquiries and with a view to preventing a postponement of the building operations until the issue of a loan is authorised when the Labourers Bill becomes law, he will say whether he will include some provision in the Bill which would enable loans to be issued to councils in the position mentioned immediately on the Royal Assent being given to the measure.

MR. BRYCE: I am considering the question of the date upon which different parts of the Bill can be brought into operation, but I see considerable difficulty in adopting the hon. Member's suggestion, upon which, moreover, the Treasury would have to be consulted.

Irish Trade Statistics.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the statement on page 5 of the recent Consular Report from Chicago with reference to the system of consular invoices in force in the United States; and whether he will consider the advisability of adopting a similar system by way of experiment in Ireland, in view of the importance of the collection of reliable statistics of imports and exports, with a view to its permanent adoption in the United Kingdom should the system prove satisfactory.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I have seen the statement referred to. In order to carry out the experiment suggested by the hon. Member, it would be necessary that Foreign Consuls in Ireland and British Consuls abroad should be required to issue Consular Invoices for goods exported from or to Ireland. His Majesty's Government have no power to give directions of this kind to Foreign Consuls, and were it otherwise, I have great doubt if the introduction of a universal requirement of this kind would be popular among Irish exporters. As regards British Consuls abroad, I would point out that the principal object of Consular Invoices is not to shew ultimate destination but to ensure that goods are not undervalued for the purpose of assessment of *ad valorem* import duties. The introduction of the system therefore in respect of goods exported from places abroad to Ireland would not attain the object which the hon. Member has in view.

Rosslare Harbour.

MR. FFRENCH: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that, formerly, there were large sounding buoys placed at the approaches of Rosslare Harbour, and that those have been removed and replaced by much smaller ones that can scarcely be seen by navigators; and whether, seeing that within the past fortnight a steam yacht went aground on the banks owing to the captain not seeing the buoys, he will take steps to have the large buoys restored.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I understand from the Commissioner of Irish Lights that one automatic whistling lighted buoy was placed on the South Sheer, Rosslare, on April 20th, 1900, as an experiment. It was found impossible to keep this constantly alight, and the Commissioners removed it on March 1st, 1901, but without replacing it by any other seamark. I have already explained the objection to placing gas-lighted buoys here at the expense of the General Lighthouse Fund.

MR. FFRENCH: Can the right hon. Gentleman say why the buoys were removed and smaller buoys put in their place.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I have already given the hon. Member the explanation furnished to me by the Irish Lights Board—that it was found impossible to keep this constantly alight.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware of the seriousness of the matter, and that ships are frequently wrecked here, and cannot he have something done to have buoys put there ?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: The matter was seriously considered by the Irish Lights Board, Trinity House, and the Shipping Committee. Shipowners objected seriously to lights being placed there, and I should think that they were the people primarily interested, but they resisted very strongly. They resisted putting lights there at the expense of the Lighthouse Fund, and after going into the matter very carefully, it was considered that they had made good their case.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Will the right hon. Gentleman draw the attention of the Commission about to be appointed to the lighting of this particular harbour ?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I do not know that I can do that, but it will, of course, be open to the hon. Member to bring any evidence he may wish before the Commission. Indeed, I think it is one of the things that they would have to consider.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said that he hoped his hon. friend (Mr. Ffrench) would do that.

Killucan Postmaster.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that the postmaster recently removed from Killucan was addicted to distributing proselytising tracts and leaflets; that a local cycling club was accustomed to follow him cleansing the public roads of this matter, and that his assistant and disciple is now a candidate for the vacant postmastership; and will he take care, before sanctioning a new appointment, that it shall not involve a further infliction of this character upon the people of the district.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Careful inquiry at Killucan has produced no clear evidence of the truth of the statements that the late postmaster was addicted to distributing proselytising tracts and leaflets, or that any persons were accustomed to follow him about with the object indicated. In selecting an officer for the vacant appointment I shall of course consider the fitness in all respects of the candidates who apply.

The Crofters Acts.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he can now say when the Bill to amend the Crofters Acts will be introduced.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): I am afraid that I cannot have a definite date for the introduction of the Crofters' Bill.

Bodmin Election Petition.

SIR G. KEKEWICH (Exeter): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he will cause the notes of evidence and the text of the judgment of Mr. Justice Grantham and Mr. Justice Lawrance, in the case of the Bodmin Election petition, when laid upon the Table of the House, to be printed, and circulated to Members, so that they may have an opportunity of comparing the evidence and the judgments in the case of the Yarmouth and Bodmin Election petitions.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The report of the Bodmin Election petition has not yet been announced to the House by Mr. Speaker. I shall be quite willing if it is the desire of the House that the evidence and judgment in the trial of the petition should be printed and circulated among Members so soon as the Report has been received.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) asked the Prime Minister when the amendments to Clause 4 of the Education Bill proposed by the Government would be circulated. He desired to know what would be the distribution of Supply in the days yet remaining. That question was justified by the fact that the Government had intimated that they would restrict Supply this year to twenty days, which was the minimum, and not give the three extra days which had commonly, but not always, been given. He also expressed a hope that the right hon. Gentleman would be able to make arrangements which would prevent a repetition of the incident that had occurred that afternoon owing to the absence of Ministers at question time.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he regretted the accident to which the right hon. gentleman referred. It was due to private business having been completed sooner than was the case earlier in the session. His right hon. friends would readjust their time-table. With regard to Supply, he would be able to give the right hon. Gentleman more accurate information on Monday. The papers with reference to Clause 4 of the Education Bill would be circulated to-morrow morning.

STANDING COMMITTEES (CHAIRMEN'S PANEL).

MR. STUART-WORTLEY reported from the Chairmen's Panel; that they had appointed Mr. Wason to act as Chairman of the Standing Committee for the consideration of Bills relating to Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures, in place of Mr. Laurence Hardy; and had appointed Mr. Brynmor Jones to act as Chairman of the Standing Committee for the consideration of Bills relating to Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in place of Sir James Woodhouse, at the conclusion of the Workmen's Compensation Bill.

Report to lie upon the Table.

STREET BETTING BILL [LORDS].

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 266.]

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Finance Bill; Metropolitan Police (Commission) Bill, without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to declare the Law with respect to a marriage between a man and his deceased wife's sister domiciled in parts of the British possessions where such a marriage is legal." [Colonial Marriages Bill [Lords.]

SUPPLY [13TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1906-7.

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £10,496,741, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on March 31st, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Post Office, including Telegraphs."

*THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said the most remarkable feature of the postal revenue at the present moment was the continued improvement which it had shown in every respect. He found that the excess of revenue from the various branches last year exceeded the estimate by about £670,000, and in the coming year the additional revenue derived from it was estimated at an excess of £800,000 over the previous year. The savings banks were also in a flourishing condition, and the number of depositors had increased. Their sheet-anchor was, of course, the penny stamp, and he was glad to say the revenue from that source was increasing month by month. The worst feature of the situation was the telegraph service. It had never been profitable, and now the telephone system had so largely taken its place that the revenue was falling off. The telephone system had made considerable progress, and the revenue derived from it was increasing rapidly year by year. The Post Office were pressing forward telephonic communication with various parts of the country, but they had great difficulty in obtaining wayleaves for the purpose. Not only did private individuals attempt to extort blackmail from the Post Office, but there was considerable difficulty with various local authorities. The Post Office had no desire to place overhead wires in places where they would be an eyesore; they were prepared to put the wires underground where necessary, and he hoped they would receive proper treatment from the local authorities. He hoped that the extension of wireless telegraphy as a commercial means of communication would take place rapidly. He expressed his surprise that the secretary of Lloyd's should have made a violent and unprovoked attack on the Post Office, and especially on his predecessor, in circulars on this matter which he sent to the newspapers and the Peers. All he could say with regard to the statement of the secretary of Lloyd's was that it was a pure travesty of the truth in regard to this matter. It was thought necessary to pass the Wireless Telegraphy Act to enable the Admiralty to control, in time of war, the stations that were being erected and to prevent the multiplication of stations to an extent that would interfere with the effective working of naval stations. The Act was also necessary to arm the Post Office with power to carry out any agreement that might be come to at any international conference which might take place. He understood that one of the chief objects of the Act was not to create a monopoly, but to prevent the monopoly which was gradually being created by one company's erecting stations at all the most suitable places. The only means of preventing that was to give the Postmaster-General power to license various companies and various systems. Since the passing of the Act only one additional licence had been granted to the Marconi Company, while ninety-one licences of various kinds had been issued, and only three licences had been refused. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had described him as a sturdy beggar for asking that a portion of the revenue should be applied to the postal service. He agreed that the Post Office ought to be a revenue-bearing portion of our system, but when there were additional profits the public ought to have some benefit from them. The cost of the various domestic postal reforms to be carried out and those which would follow the new Postal Union Convention, when it came into force, would amount to £156,000 a year and £190,000 a year respectively; in all a charge on the Post Office of £350,000 when they came into full operation. It was not easy in the present condition of things to find money for postal reform, but he thought the Committee would recognise that £350,000 a year in our present financial straits was no small sum for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to give him for that purpose. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in his Budget speech, had already referred to these proposals of domestic improvement, and he would only wish to supplement his right hon. friend's observations with a few words, and to indicate the nature of the reforms which he had been able to bring into operation. The first reform had reference to the charges for the Parcel Post, in regard to which he had introduced a new scale. The basis of that postage was a twopenny charge, with an additional penny a pound. What he had been able to do was to reduce the charge by a penny above the four pounds scale and by twopence in the upper scale from six pounds upwards. He confessed that that, of course, was only a provisional reform, and he thought it was generally acknowledged that the Parcel Post might very well be enlarged and improved, and possibly the charges at the lower end of the scale also reduced, and the upper scales extended. But he had no funds this year which would enable him to carry out that proposal. Then there was the question of reduction in the cost of postal orders, which formed in this country a very popular form of remitting money. No less than 95,000,000 postal orders were issued last year, and when he looked into the matter he found that the number of orders of the lower denominations of 2s. and 2s. 6d. amounted to 12,000,000, which was an indication, he thought, that they were largely used by people in humble circumstances. The present charge of 1d. on those orders represented a charge of from 4 to 4½ per cent. on their cost price. He proposed to reduce the rate on orders of this denomination from 1d. to ½d., and the rate on orders from 11s. to 15s. from 1½d. to 1d. He thought that would be a great boon to a very large number of users of postal orders. He had been pressed by his hon. friend the Member for Canterbury, and by other hon. Members to extend what might be called the commercial halfpenny post, so that any printed document or any document that was not of a personal character which did not exceed 2oz. might be sent for one halfpenny. The difficulty had always been one of definition, but what he proposed to do was to revise the definition as it existed at present, and to extend the benefits of this particular post. He did not suppose that all the anomalies and difficulties would be entirely overcome, but he hoped a good deal might be done to the advantage of the commercial firms, traders, and others who used this post. The reform to which he attached most importance was the increase of postal, telegraph, and telephone facilities. He was surprised to find that there was a certain number of misguided people in this country who desired to have their postal facilities increased. He was not one of those. He would rather like to have them very much diminished, though he dared say that if he had not got the facilities he would want them. With the money placed at his disposal he would be able to secure, except in regard to very distant places or very scantily populated neighbourhoods, to every house in this country the delivery of letters on at least three days a week. Then, at present, unless it could be shown that telegraph facilities were likely to be fairly profitable, or, at any rate, not to lead to any great loss, they were only granted under a guarantee that half the loss was borne by the individual of the locality, while the other half fell upon the Post Office, and in the case of the telephone the whole loss fell on the guarantor. In future, both in regard to telegraphs and trunk telephone lines, the guarantee would be reduced from one-half to one-third, and this, he hoped, would lead to an extension of these facilities to a large number of places where at present, unfortunately, they did not exist. He hoped, too, that this would meet the view of the Board of Agriculture as to the necessity of a cheap telephone service in rural and especially in fruit-growing districts. The improvements to which he referred would cost, as he had already stated, for a complete year, something like £156,000, and he thought he might claim that they would give relief which was very much needed, especially by the poorer classes, by the trading and commercial houses of the country and by the public at large. He was glad to think that the results of the Universal Postal Union Congress at Rome this year would be of considerable advantage to those who were interested in foreign postage. The hon. Member for Canterbury had urged upon him that at that conference he should have taken up an attitude of strongly pressing for a universal penny post throughout the world. His answer to that was a simple one, and perhaps it would appeal to hon. Members. He was personally sympathetic with the proposal that there should be a universal system of penny postage throughout the length and breadth of the world, and it was quite obvious that at some time or another that system would be introduced. It was equally evident that anomalies, such as that while they could send a letter from England to Australia for 1d., while it cost 2½d. to send a similar letter to Paris, did exist under the present system and must disappear. But the Government were not now in a position to deal with the question. Universal penny postage would involve this country in a loss of half a million sterling in postal revenue, and, as there would be practically no profit on the international penny postage, that loss would not be recouped, however largely the number of letters was increased as a result of the reduction. He thought the Committee would generally recognize that under present conditions the Government were not in a position to sacrifice £500,000 of revenue even for so laudable an object as that of universal penny postage. Even if the Chancellor of the Exchequer had been in a position to offer him the £500,000 to play with, he was not sure that he should not have used it in other though perhaps less showy ways than in establishing universal penny postage. It would have been easy for the British delegates to make a demonstration in favour of the proposal for a universal penny postage if they had liked to do so, for when the Universal Postal Union Conference met, it was quite certain that a proposal for the establishment of the universal penny post would not have been carried and the Government could have professed to be in favour of it without involving the risk of any loss. But that would not have been, in his opinion, a satisfactory or honest way of dealing with the question, and therefore it was that he instructed the British delegates not to record their votes in favour of it. The British proposal at the Congress was that, failing universal penny postage, the initial charge of 2½d. should be reduced to 2d., and that, for every additional ½ oz. the charge should be 1d., instead of, as at present, 2½d. That would have meant that the charge for a letter weighing 1 oz. would have been reduced from 5d. to 3d. Both those proposals, he was sorry to say, were defeated, though they received the backing of all the English-speaking delegates and of some of the representatives of the other countries. However, largely as the result of the action of the British delegates, the initial weight of a foreign letter would be raised from ½ oz. to 1 oz., the charge remaining at 2½d.; while the charge for the second ounce would be 1½d. instead of 2½d., as at present. The upshot of the matter would be that, in future, they would be able to send a 1-oz. letter for 2½d. that formerly cost 5d., a 2-oz. letter for 4d. that formerly cost 10d., and a 3-oz. letter, which formerly cost 1s. 3d., for 5½d. He thought that would be regarded as a material relief to those sending letters abroad. Another result of these reductions would be that the difficulties connected with the question of enclosure would very largely disappear. The British delegates at the Postal Union Congress proposed under instructions from home that in regard to underpaid letters the fine should be limited to 1d., whatever might be the overcharge. It was an annoying matter when a letter had been not quite sufficiently stamped, very often owing to a mere accident, to find a heavy charge for overweight. The proposal of the British delegates was not carried. Under this new system, however, the fine for the underpaid letter would not be as it had been, 5d., but could not exceed 3d. As to the difference between the proposals now adopted and Imperial penny postage, he was not sure that on the whole the advantage from the point of view of the foreign letter writer would not be greater under the former. The initial charge would no doubt be more than at present, but when it came to anything exceeding 2 oz. the advantage lay on the side of the allowance of an increased weight in place of a mere reduction of charge. Moreover, universal penny postage would not have affected our relations with the Colonies in regard to Imperial postage, which was at present 1d. the ½ oz. But the reform adopted by the Congress of raising the unit weight had this advantage with regard to our existing system of Imperial penny post—that in future we should be able to send to our Colonies, and to any part of the British Empire for 1d. an ounce instead of only half an ounce; while two ounces would cost 2d. instead of 4d. Another reform adopted by the Congress was the "reply coupon." Anyone writing to a friend abroad and desirous of sending postage for a reply or a small remittance could do so by means of an international coupon. The total cost of the proposals would be £190,000 a year. He hoped that before very long some of that would be recouped by the increased number of letters sent. Imperial penny postage had now been extended to practically the whole of the British Empire. Bechuanaland and Rhodesia had come in during the last twelve months, and the system now extended throughout the Empire with the exception of one or two small islands in the Pacific. To his predecessor, whose absence from the House he regretted, really belonged the credit of a reduction in the price of porterage for telegrams and of another small reform. These were the proposals which the Department laid before the Committee, and he hoped they would be considered to be satisfactory. There were two other matters which were receiving his attention, but about which he was not in a position to say anything very definite. He hoped, however, that something might be done in the right direction. The first was a question which interested very much those who had directed their attention to the subject of Canadian postage—he meant the question whether we could give a material reduction on the postage of heavy articles, such as periodicals, magazines, and newspaper matter, in order to meet the American competition, which flooded Canada with American literature. He was in communication with the Canadian Government, and had made proposals and suggestions which he was sure they would meet in a friendly spirit, and he thought also in a favourable spirit. He hoped that before long some practical action might be taken. The second point was the question of reducing the postage on the literature for the blind. Every one had the greatest sympathy for the blind, and he was in negotiation with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and those interested with a view to such a reduction. All these matters were dealt with from the point of view of the public, but they must not forget that the Postmaster-General was the largest employer of labour in this country. He employed 150,000 persons, and indirectly he employed 50,000 persons apart from the men working under contractors. Therefore, his action, good or bad, must have a considerable influence on the general position of the labour market. His view was that the Government ought to be a good employer. As to contractors, the question was largely one of whether they paid fair wages and whether their conditions of labour were proper conditions. He had had the honour of moving and getting the House to adopt the fair wages clause, and he had consequently a parental feeling in regard to that clause. He had given a great deal of attention to any facts brought before him, where it was alleged that proper wages were not paid or that proper conditions were not observed, and he would continue to do so, in order that the Resolution of the House might be carried out with the fullest possible effect. He had been able in one or two cases to improve the conditions by drawing the attention of the contractors to them. The other day he gave notice of the termination of a contract because he thought it clear that the contractor was not, and never could be, a fair employer of labour. With regard to clothing contracts, the assent of the Treasury had enabled him to appoint an officer of the nature of an Inspector to be added to the Department, and for the first time the Postmaster-General would have an opportunity of more or less controlling the conditions of these clothing and other contracts or obtaining information as regarded them. With regard to the Department as a direct employer of manual labour, at Mount Pleasant and Holloway it was his anxious desire, and that of the Secretary and Controller, to place that work as far as possible on a stable basis, so that there should be the least possible fluctuations in regard to the work given out to these factories, and that there should not be a large number of men taken on at one time and discharged at another. Thus the men would be employed as far as possible from the beginning to the end of the year. The matter was not an easy one to arrange, but an endeavour was being made to carry it out. Referring to the Committee of Inquiry into the conditions and wages of postal servants, he said that the Committee was very much indebted to the members of that Committee, especially the chairman, for the great amount of time and attention they were giving to this important matter. As to the conditions of service, he thought the time had come when the full right of representation and combination ought to be allowed in the postal service as in other associations, and that there should be a reiteration of the right of appeal to the Postmaster-General. He believed that the stronger and more responsible a trade union was made the more likely were the relations between the trade union men and the employer to be good and satisfactory. Far from the recognition of postal trade unions leading to friction, he believed that the stronger and more representative the associations became the less would be the friction, and the more easy it would be to arrive at a conclusion satisfactory to both sides.

The last six months had been a period of exceptional pressure on the Department owing to the Committee of Inquiry, which took away the able Secretary and others for six or seven weeks, while reforms, special questions and memorials, deputations, etc., had consumed a large amount of time. In addition hon. Members themselves had something to do with the delay which took place in dealing with matters in which they were interested. He was informed a little while ago by his private secretary that in the ordinary way sixty or seventy applications of various sorts were made by hon. Members in the course of a calendar month, but that for some months past, in consequence perhaps of there being a new Government, a new Parliament, new Members, and a new Postmaster-General, the number of applications of all sorts had amounted to between 300 and 400 per month. This, he might say, was before there was an unfortunate vacancy in Glasgow, since when letters had been thick as leaves in Vallombrosa. He mentioned all this not as an excuse, but as an explanation of delay. He was not complaining of it at all, and he thanked hon. Members for the consideration which they always gave in these matters, and for not pressing him too severely. He wished to refer to the question of the appointment of sub-postmasters and medical officers. Ten years ago hon. Members had the direct power of appointing sub-postmasters, and so on. They had relinquished that power, but the position at present was that they had a certain power of recommendation to the Postmaster-General. It certainly seemed to him that the old system ought to be reverted to or this matter taken out of the purview of politics altogether. Having now been Postmaster-General for six months, he had formed a very high idea of the marvellous organisation and efficiency of our great postal service. Of course there were accidents, but when he told the Committee that last year no less than 4,700,000,000 letters and packages were sent throughout this country and no less than 100,000,000 trunk telephone and telegraph messages, the wonder was not at the number of complaints, but that they were not infinitely greater. He desired to recognise the zeal and public spirit that animated all branches of the service, of which he was proud to be the temporary chief.

*Mr. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury) said the two important points which ought to engage the attention of the Committee, namely, the wages of postmen and universal penny postage, would not come up to-day because the postmen's case was now being considered by a Committee, and the question of universal penny postage would be discussed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Postmaster-General in the Grand Committee room on July 3rd, when a deputation would wait upon them. He promised the Postmaster-General that when the time arrived they would be able to show that the loss by the introduction of universal penny postage would not amount to more than £125,000 a year. Imperial penny postage, although strongly opposed by the right hon. Gentleman's predecessors, was carried. It was just the same in Rowland Hill's day, and it was found that no loss resulted from the introduction of the penny postage. He would show how little reliance could be placed on the brief prepared for his right hon. friend by referring to one matter. The right hon. Gentleman had told them of the blessings of increasing the weight of letters to foreign countries from a half ounce to one ounce. If the right hon. Gentleman would turn to *Hansard* of ten years ago when he asked the Postmaster-General of that time to increase the weight of letters to the Colonies and foreign countries from a half ounce to one ounce, he would find the reply was that a letter written on the strongest paper and in the strongest envelope could be sent for half an ounce to any part of the world, and it was not the intention to extend the weight to an ounce. To-day the right hon. Gentleman had referred in terms of praise to the benefits of the increase of the weight to an ounce. Surely after the insulting way in which the right hon. Gentleman's predecessors refused to increase the weight to an ounce there ought to be some sort o apology from the right hon. Gentleman for the attitude he took up to-day. No reliance could be placed on the figures supplied to the right hon. Gentleman as to the loss that would arise from the introduction of universal penny postage. He was prepared to show that the initial loss would not be a quarter of what the right hon. Gentleman said, and that the increase of letters in three years would cover the loss. The right hon. Gentleman had said that he had given £150,000 this year in concessions, but he omitted to tell the Committee at the same time that the Post Office made £480,000 extra profit. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman whether the time had not arrived for selling post-cards at their face value. The loss would be very small. This was the only country in the world in which it was not possible to get the post-card at its face value. Another reform which he would like to see carried out was that telegraph money orders should be delivered at the residence instead of the recipient having to go to a post office to get the money. In every other country the reform he asked for had been carried out. In regard to this, and, in fact, to all money orders, it was far better for one postman to take the money to 200 houses of the addressees than for 200 persons to go to the post office for the money advised in each of their money orders. It would be an immense saving of time. He hoped hon. Members would join with him in pressing for that reform. Then there was the question of the cost of sending money abroad. To send 5s. to Paris from this country the cost was 4½d., but the cost of sending the same amount from Paris to this country was only one penny. Surely England could afford to send money abroad as cheaply as France, and he hoped a conference would be held with the French authorities upon this point. The only answer he had received on this point was that if £20 was sent it would be cheaper. There was another reform which had been received with great favour in Australia, America, and Italy. He referred to private letter boxes at post offices. In Sydney, Melbourne, New York, and even in Rome, a private letter box could be rented, where by applying his own key a person could get his letters at any hour. This country refused to give that facility to travellers from all parts of the world. Such a reform would answer a good purpose, and would be largely used by people in various parts of the Empire. The Postmaster-General had made a very curious admission with regard to the non-liability of the Post Office for anything which was stolen or any loss inflicted through the error or carelessness of the employees. He had told the Committee what a splendid staff he had, but he would like the right hon. Gentleman to adopt the practice which he would adopt in private life and when losses occurred to the public through gross carelessness or robbery pay his liabilities. To turn to another matter, this was the only country which refused to return a man a letter which he had posted in mistake. They insisted upon delivering it and refused to return it to the man who had written it. In every other country the moment a man sent a letter off by mistake he could go to the postmaster, and after furnishing the address and writing an account of the contents of the letter it would be returned to the writer. Often very serious injury had been done through mistakes of this kind, and he urged the right hon. Gentleman to allow writers of letters to withdraw them under those circumstances. There was another small matter which was causing great annoyance to a large number of persons, and that was the difficulty of buying stamps at railway stations. It was almost incredible that at the bookstalls they could not purchase a stamp. He was told by the great firm who controlled the bookstalls that it was owing to the excessive meanness of the Post Office that they could not get stamps at railway stations. If the Postmaster-General would look into this matter he should be much obliged. The right hon. Gentleman stated that he could not get any more money out of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but when a source of expenditure which was not justified was pointed out any business man would at once consider it, and put an end to it if possible. At the present moment they were losing £1,000,000 a year on the telegraph business. Every telegram that was dispatched cost the country 1s., whilst the average amount paid for it was only 7½d., which showed an absolute loss of 4½d. upon every telegram delivered. In round figures 90,000,000 telegrams cost £4,500,000, and the money received for them was £3,500,000. Would any business man tolerate this enormous loss upon telegrams? He was a little worried when he heard his right hon. friend express such sympathy for postmasters, because he thought the time had arrived for putting an end to political patronage. In the great colony of Australia on the railways they had a Civil Service board irremovable as judges, and Members of Parliament had no right to make or interfere with promotions. He thanked the Committee for listening to him so patiently.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) congratulated the Postmaster-General upon the interesting speech he had made. He rose to say a few words in regard to the interests of the employees who carried out the work of the Post Office in the admirable way he had described. As regarded their religion there was no interference from the Postmaster-General, but it was only as regarded their blood that the Postmaster-General seemed to think he had the right of interference, and to say what kind of blood should flow in their veins. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to think that it was for the good of the country that all his employees should be vaccinated, and he would, therefore, call his attention to a few figures which might make him consider whether it was necessary to interfere with the liberty of those who served under him. In the smallpox hospital where he lived there had been admitted 577 cases, and of these 509 were vaccinated. No one looking at those figures could say that vaccination was a safeguard against smallpox. One of these people had been re-vaccinated three times, another four times, and another five times. He believed there were some people who were re-vaccinated every six months, but they were not all like the pauper who, when a doctor offered him a shilling if he would allow himself to be vaccinated, replied: "Yes, you may vaccinate the whole of my body at that rate." They usually valued their skins at a little more than one shilling a square inch, and the Post Office employees valued their skins more highly than that. Vaccination was absolutely useless. If the hon. Member for the Epping Division who laughed would give him two or three hours of his valuable time he would undertake to convert him. He knew the hon. and gallant Member was a man of intelligence. He would offer him £10——

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): Is it in order for a Member of this House to offer a bribe to another?

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: I do not think it was serious.

MR. LUPTON: I will hand him £10——

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: Oh, leave that.

MR. LUPTON: I am sorry the rules of the House will not allow me to finish my sentence.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: No, you must not.

MR. LUPTON: I am sorry because it leaves me at a disadvantage. It prevents me making an explanation, and that half-sentence will go into the Press because I must not finish a sentence. People said, he continued, that in Germany they had wiped out smallpox by vaccination. In six years there were eighty-eight deaths in London from smallpox and in Berlin in the same period fifty-one.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: Order, order! On the Post Office Estimates we cannot have a discussion on the general question of vaccination.

MR. LUPTON said he could not trace the history of all Post Office officials, but he could trace the history of men in the Army, and he thought he was entitled to take statistics from the Army to show the effects of vaccination.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member was out of order in discussing the general question of vaccination.

MR. LUPTON said he bowed to the ruling of the Chair, but what he wished to say was that the Postmaster-General could order vaccination if he liked, and he submitted he was entitled to raise the question of whether vaccination was of any use or not.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: The question must be raised by itself, but the general question of vaccination is out of place on the Post Office Estimates.

MR. LUPTON said that if vaccination was shown to be useless in the Army it must be useless in the Post Office. He supposed he was in order in saying that. In the last twenty-eight years, of 3,953 vaccinated soldiers 10 per cent. had died of smallpox. If they died in the Army in that ratio they would die in the same ratio in the Post Office. The hon. Member was proceeding to quote instances of the effects of vaccination when—

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: I have already said that we cannot have a general discussion on vaccination. The hon. Member must limit himself to vaccination in the Post Office and its effect upon Post Office officials.

MR. LUPTON: No statistics are published as regards smallpox in the Post Office.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: Then there is no use referring further to the matter.

MR. LUPTON said he would content himself by asking the Postmaster-General to inquire into the question of vaccination and smallpox, and if he came to the conclusion that vaccination was useless he should revise the existing orders on the subject. The right hon. Gentleman might alter his regulations so that vaccination would only be compulsory if he thought it was necessary at all in the case of a severe epidemic. His opinion was that vaccination was no use at all.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.) said he wished, as having been connected with the Local Government Board for some time, to protest against the remarks of the hon. Member for the Sleaford Division. The hon. Member had said that the Postmaster-General should only make vaccination compulsory in the Post Office in the event of a severe epidemic. He protested against that because nothing could be more disastrous to the service. He wished to draw attention to a subject which created a good deal of interest, but which had found very slight advocacy in the Committee. They had had a very interesting review by the Postmaster-General of the work of the Post Office for the year, and about the necessity for cheap Imperial postage, but while with the greater part of the world the postal arrangements were admirable and in this country the service rendered by the Post Office was of a character they had a right to admire, he was sorry to say that in many rural districts the condition of things was very bad. He knew of places which were well provided with railway communication, and contained a large population, where the postal arrangements were very far from what they ought be. He had drawn attention to this matter repeatedly, but his representations had met with very meagre results. In many parts of the country the postal service arrived at a late hour in the morning, and the delivery took place at from half-past three to half-past four. Of course that did not affect the people who were able to keep carriages and servants, and could send for their letters; but the poorer people, the farmers and small traders, were very seriously inconvenienced by the want of adequate postal facilities. There were many farmers in the country who were seriously hampered in carrying on their business owing to their letters arriving after they had gone to the market, or to the neighbouring towns on business. They found on their return that their letters had arrived, but the post had left, and it was next morning before they were able to reply to their communications. Of course, the Postmaster-General had great difficulties to face but he submitted that in many cases a great improvement might be effected by a re-arrangement of postal facilities. In certain districts local circumstances had altered. New railways had come into existence, and it would be quite easy by an alteration of the postal centres to afford the facilities asked for. He did not suggest that there should be the same number of deliveries as in the towns but he submitted that there should be an arrival of letters early in the morning and a collection late in the evening. At present a man in Manchester who spent 1d. on a letter got all the facilities he could desire, and an adequate return for the expenditure, but in the country districts a man did not get the same value for 1d. spent on a letter. He did not ask the Postmaster-General to say anything on the subject that day, but he asked him to give his earnest attention to this question so that all these difficulties might be overcome.

MR. SEDDON (Lancashire, Newton) said he wished to express his thanks to the Postmaster-General for his remarks with reference to the Post Office employees. The attitude of the right hon. Gentleman was not only the correct one, but stood out in strong relief against that of his predecessor. Personally he did not share the regret expressed that the late Postmaster-General was not present to criticise or to commend the statement for the current year. He had no desire to see that Gentleman in the House, and he did not regret the small part he had played in trying to keep him out. He did not think it was in the interests of the public service for any paid official, even a Cabinet Minister, to describe a section of the community as blood suckers and blackmailers. Until he had learned better manners he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would keep out of the House. He noticed that £580,000 was paid last year to contractors for carrying the mails by road, and he was told that in these cases the Post Office did not own the vans or have any control over the men. The result was that the men were paid low wages and worked long hours under unsatisfactory conditions. In the Post Office it had been demonstrated beyond all doubt that the employment of direct labour was efficient, economical, and in the public interest. Yet there was this enormous amount paid to contractors. Electric traction had passed out of the experimental stage, and the money now paid to contractors would pay three per cent. on something like £20,000,000. Surely this was a favourable opportunity for encouraging British industries by setting up a great motor carriage service to be worked by the Post Office. The Post Office was now sympathetic towards direct labour employment. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to extend the operation of the principle and to secure the employment by the Post Office of as much direct labour as was possible. That would be, he held, an economy to the nation and a benefit to the workmen engaged.

SIR GILBERT PARKER said there were two Reports to which he wished to refer for a few moments. In the last Parliament there was a considerable body of opinion, on both sides of the House, as to the action of postal servants in bringing pressure to bear on Members of Parliament in regard to their grievances. In order to prevent the recurrence of that pressure he advocated the appointment of a permanent Commission, which should from time to time survey the changed conditions of industrial life and the alterations in its standards in regard to wages and living. The Commission should deal not only with the Post Office or any other Department but with the conditions prevailing in every Department contrasted with those existing in civil life. It was true that at the present time a Committee had been appointed to inquire into this question as it affected the grievances of postal servants, but he regretted that the late Postmaster-General did not appoint, as he might have done, a permanent Commission which, if its constitution was satisfactory, he believed would have the support and confidence of both Parties. It should be representative of labour as well as of the other wide interests concerned. He appealed to the present Postmaster-General to take into consideration the question of bringing before Parliament the desirability of appointing a permanent Commission to deal with wages and conditions of service of Civil servants not only in the Post Office but in all Departments of State He thought that would satisfy the minds of those who were uneasy and alarmed about these grievances. The Postmaster-General had given promises in regard to some reforms which had been pressed upon him by a great many Members of the House of Commons, but he had not given any definite pledge as to the reduction of the postal rates between this country and

Canada. Last year a deputation consisting of twenty-one Members of Parliament waited upon the late Postmaster General and begged him to initiate a reform which would give to Canada that consideration to which she was entitled in regard to this very serious matter. The question had not been discussed for two or three years, and it was well worth going over the ground which had been traversed before, in order that a new House of Commons might understand the position. He was quite sure that there was not a Member of the House who did not desire the closest and most sympathetic relations between this country and the Colonies, and he was sure that there was no one who would not give reciprocal relations which did not involve any change in our fiscal system. He had nothing to do with the fiscal system of this country in regard to this question, and therefore he claimed the sympathy of his hon. friends opposite. At the present time periodicals and magazines going from this country to Canada had to be paid for at the rate of 4d. a pound, whereas periodicals going from the United States to Canada were paid for at the rate of a halfpenny a pound That being so, anyone interested in the industrial developement of this country and the developement of trade between ourselves and our Colonies must realise what a serious condition of things this was, because a magazine coming from the United States was filled, and purposely filled, with advertisements of American goods. Another serious thing was that there were fifty-five periodicals published in America to one published in Canada. Therefore, Canada was swamped with American literature which represented the commercial and social life of the United States and dealt with the attitude of Canada as a Colony towards this country. This constant influx of American literature and its influence in Canada tended to devitalise the loyalty of the Colony. That process had been going on year after year, and if they could devise a reform of the Postal Department—which was the milch cow of the Government far more than any other Department—without any undue pressure upon the resources at the disposal of the right hon. Gentleman, he thought it ought to be done. A sixpenny monthly English magazine cost 9s. 6d. a year in Canada, whereas an American magazine only cost 6s. 6d. That was a differential rate which effectually excluded English magazines and literature from Canada, except English magazines which were imported in bulk into the United States at a cost of 8s. per hundred pounds or about a penny a pound. When these magazines arrived in America, however, they had added to them about a hundred or a hundred and fifty pages of American advertisements. All this had a tendency to diminish the commercial interchange which should go on between this country and Canada, and to decrease the output of the industrial centres of this country. At present the *Nineteenth Century*, weighing ten or twelve ounces, cost 4½d. to send from London to Liverpool, whereas the quarterly issue of the *Gentlewoman* or of *The Drapers' Record*, weighing two and a half pounds and containing 130 pages of advertisements, and sixty-four pages partly advertisement and partly reading matter went through the post from London to Liverpool for a halfpenny. He called the system a stupid one, but when he put the matter before the late Postmaster-General almost a couple of years ago the right hon. Gentleman said that the publishers of certain publications took advantage of the Post Office Act, and so brought about the anomalies of which he complained. Of course if a proposal was made to remove anomalies of this kind it would receive opposition on the part of the owners of these huge and successful newspapers which went by post for a halfpenny. If the rates on magazines like the *Nineteenth Century* and the *Contemporary* were lowered, a better class of reading matter would be provided. During the last few years there had been a tendency to lower the taste of the public by cheap newspapers and literature, and it was desirable that the movement in that direction should not be encouraged. He knew that the right hon. Gentleman was sympathetic in this matter. Canada had shown its willingness to meet this country by stating that they would lower the rate with regard to magazines and periodicals by a farthing, and they were making that concession upon international grounds. Canada, therefore, was trying to find a way out of the difficulty, and he hoped that the proposals which the right hon. Gentleman had made to the Government of that country were not of a nature which demanded too large a sacrifice. Successive Postmasters-Generals had always, with the whip of the Treasury snapped over their heads, opposed reforms which, when initiated, brought grist to the Treasury. So far as the telegraph department was concerned he was not prepared to offer any opinion. In view of the facts he had endeavoured to put before the Committee, and in view of the fact that there was a large body of opinion on both sides of the House in its favour, he thought the reply of the Postmaster-General with regard to Canada was most unsatisfactory. Canada was asking for the reduction of a penny on the postage rate on British magazines. She said that if we gave her that reduction she would be able to purchase more magazines of this country in order to compete with the great incursion of American magazines. But beyond the Imperial influence and solidarity throughout the Empire which these magazines would convey, there was the commercial and industrial interest. He believed the Postmaster-General could do nothing more popular, so far as Canada was concerned, and he believed so far as this country was concerned, than to adjust these anomalies in connection with the inland postage, and in adjusting them make it possible to reduce the rates to Canada. He relied on the right hon. Gentleman, first, to give the Committee as soon as possible the terms of the negotiations into which he had entered with Canada; secondly, to make the conditions as light as possible for her to accept; and, thirdly, not to consider too seriously the possible loss of revenue, because he must remember that he did not get so much out of the postage as he would expect, as the bulk of the reading matter that went to Canada went by way of the United States, which got the bulk of the postage. In conclusion, he appealed once more to the right hon. Gentleman to advance this most excellent cause as rapidly as possible.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) said it was obvious that the many topics which were usually discussed on these Estimates could not be entered into now because the Committee which was considering them had not concluded its deliberations. But there was one question, which was not under the consideration of the Committee, to which he desired to refer. It was the question of the wages and conditions of service of the mail van drivers. He had always held that the conditions of service of these men and the wages they received were a disgrace to the Service and to the country. He would give the Committee a typical case. A mail van driver started out at 6 a.m., worked till 10 a.m., returned at 2 p.m., and left off at 10 p.m. for a wage of 3s. 6d. a day.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: What is the name of the contractor?

MR. PICKERSGILL said he was unable to give the name of the contractor. But, in addition to those hours, the men had to attend on Sunday to clean their horses, harness and stables, for which they received no remuneration. He contended that no one who even indirectly was working for the State ought to be serving under such conditions. The right hon. Gentleman had told the Committee he had determined one contract because he was not satisfied with the conditions under which the men worked, but he would like to know what the right hon. Gentleman considered were fair and reasonable hours for a mail van driver, and what was a fair and reasonable salary. It appeared that at present the old Fair Wages Clause was incorporated in these contracts, but that was of no use, as long experience had shewn. He held the opinion that the Post Office ought to do its own cartage, but, until it did, he wished to press on the Postmaster-General very strongly that as the Fair Wages Clause had proved a failure, he ought to adopt the practice followed in many cases by the London County Council and other local bodies, of incorporating in these contracts a schedule of hours and wages. There was no difficulty in doing so. He felt very strongly upon this question, in which the people of the East End of London were largely concerned. But it was not only a question of workmen; the honour of the public and of this House was concerned. The men for whose conditions of service they were responsible should not be subjected to such conditions as those which he had stated, In order to elicit a fuller statement upon this very important and pressing question, he moved to reduce the Vote by the amount of which he had given notice, namely £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £10,496,641, be granted for the said service."—(*Mr. Pickersgill.*)

*LORD VALENTIA (Oxford) congratulated the right hon. Gentleman the Postmaster-General upon being the first Minister occupying the position he held who had been able to see his way to grant a concession to his blind fellow countrymen, although he regretted the right hon. Gentleman was unable to state to the Committee what the concession was that he proposed to grant. All the Committee would share the sympathy exhibited by the right hon. Gentleman towards the blind. There were a great many people who did not realise that the blind had to suffer a considerable amount of hardship that more fortunate people had not to put up with. They had to pay as much rates and taxes as their more favoured brethren, but had not the opportunity of enjoying the amenities and advantages which those rates and taxes provided in the same way as those who had their sight. They had at great trouble, and after years of instruction, been taught to read with their hands, by a laborious but ingenious use of the sense of touch, to supplement the sense of which they are deficient; but after having been so instructed they found themselves still further handicapped by the price and the difficulty of getting the literature they required. The weight and bulk of literature for the blind was such as to make the cost of postage very heavy. The Postmaster-General had expressed his sympathy with the proposal, but he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would appreciate the value of the adage that a little help was worth a deal of pity. The blind were obliged to confine themselves to such magazines as "Progres," which cost 6d.: the price of transmission through the post amounted to 3d., and for some occult reason an additional 1d. was sometimes charged. These were instances of the expense of sending through the post literature available for the use of the blind. A more astonishing piece of information was furnished by the Secretary of the British and Foreign Blind Association who told him that the weight of the Bible in a form for the blind was 105 lbs., and the cost of postage per copy £1 0s. 5d. This seemed to him to make it prohibitive in many cases for blind people, who were not very largely endowed with this world's goods, to obtain literature of any kind through the post. The preferential rate given to newspapers was regarded with envy by the blind. Such papers as the *Field*, the *Graphic*, and the *Queen* were larger in bulk and wider than the magazine for the blind he had referred to, and yet they passed through the post for ½d.; the *Drapers' Record*, with 300 pages on one occasion, passed through the post for ½d., although it was six times as large as the small magazine to which he had referred. He was glad to think that the Postmaster-General proposed to mitigate the difficulties which the blind suffered with regard to literature sent through the post. He only hoped the concession would be really material. The Postmaster-General conducted one of the most efficient and best equipped of the Government Departments, and he was so far happily placed that his was one of the Departments which invariably swelled the revenue instead of depleting it as other Departments did. The right hon. Gentleman, therefore, could be liberal without falling foul of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and follow the example of various foreign countries and British Colonies by allowing literature for the blind to pass free through the post. He urged the right hon. Gentleman not to spoil the ship for a ha'porth of tar. Many proposals had been made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make use of public money for the benefit of Members of Parliament. If the Committee were polled to decide the question whether the right hon. Gentleman should yield to any of those proposals to grant free postage for the blind, he would guarantee the right hon. Gentleman a larger majority than it had ever been his duty to tell in favour of the Government.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said he had nothing but admiration for the statement of the Postmaster-General, and, notwithstanding his right hon. friend's gentle remonstrance with regard to the importunity of Members, he ventured to bring before him a grievance affecting the whole of the north-west of Ireland—he referred to the mail service between Ireland and England. The mail service proper—viz., the service *via* Holyhead—was as good as it could be. Trains leaving Derry in the afternoon about 3 o'clock reached Kingston at 8 and London at 5.45 in the morning. But some time ago the merchants of Belfast asked for additional facilities *via* Greenore. After a good deal of fighting with the late Postmaster-General that boon was conceded, they securing a mail bag by the train leaving Belfast for Greenore. Of course that concession only whetted the appetite of the places left out. After another contest—he was on two deputations to the Postmaster-General—this boon was conceded to the city of Derry. That made the remaining places more clamorous. He submitted that the boon could be conceded to the other places without adding much to the cost and would entail absolutely no trouble to the Post Office officials. The train stopped at the stations and the postal officials were at the station with mails. It was a mystery how this could be denied. The invariable answer of the late Postmaster-General was that the amount of correspondence would not justify the increased cost. There would be little or no increased cost; and how did the Post Office know what the amount of correspondence would be before it had tried the experiment? He knew of one case in which a firm of linen merchants would send twenty or thirty more letters a day if they had this convenience. Why should the Post Office proceed in this piecemeal fashion, and having satisfied Belfast and Derry and shut off their pressure,, leave the other three or four towns on the route from Derry to Belfast to contend for this simple act? He had to acknowledge the exceeding courtesy of the right hon. Gentleman on many occasions, and he would now ask him to look into this matter afresh. It would not involve any extra charge on the Post Office, or any additional trouble.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Wapping) said he was anxious to take up the appeal of the hon. member for Gravesend for a concession to Canada in the matter of the postage on magazines. It was a subject on which Canada felt very deeply, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not merely give a sympathetic answer, but state what he was able to do. He looked upon the question not so much from the commercial point of view, though that was important, as from a regard for the wishes of Canada itself. Canada had made very great concessions to us and would welcome, no doubt, similar concessions from this side of the water. He was tired of hearing subjects put forward as being non-political, but he really thought that this question was non-political. Hon. Gentlemen opposite might have different opinions as to how an Imperial bond should be created, but he was sure they would be all ready to assist in pressing upon the right hon. Gentleman a concession of postage which would assist high-class magazines from this country to be spread throughout Canada. Then there was the question of mail carts raised by the hon. Member for Bethnal Green. He was not prepared to go into the question of the wages of the drivers, though he was inclined to think they were underpaid. Nor was he inclined to go so far as to suggest the impropriety of not having a State service of mail drivers. But he did hope the right hon. Gentleman would go into the whole question. Not only were the mail drivers paid as low as possible, but the animals they drove were of the worst possible kind, and a great deal of cruelty was shown in the class of animal that was placed between the shafts and the way in which it was driven. He was more inclined on this occasion to plead for the animals than for the men, for he was sure other hon. Members would look after the men but might be apt to forget the horses. Motor traction might be usefully employed to the great saving of the horses and men and time, and the greater convenience of the rural districts. The motor vans now used in London could be used also in the country districts with advantage. With regard to vaccination he thought the Postmaster-General was right in refusing to relax his rules. He heard with satisfaction that the guarantee in rural districts for post-offices was about to be reduced to one-third instead of one-half. That was a valuable concession, and one which would be a great benefit in the rural districts where the advantages of telegraphy were beginning to be more highly appreciated. He would also like to know how the employment of old soldiers as rural postmen was going on. Were such appointments on the increase or on the decrease? Had these old soldiers proved good servants, and had the new system of granting characters instituted a short time ago proved a success? He was painfully aware that in the old days the old system of characters was liable to abuse. Since that system had been abolished he knew of many good men who were out of employment, and he was naturally anxious that they should receive some consideration for the hardships they had undergone in their country's service. He would sooner have seen the 2s. and the 2s. 6d. postal orders left untouched, and the wages of the rural postmen increased.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: That matter, of course, is before the Committee.

Colonel LOCKWOOD said that perhaps when the matter came up in a concrete form the right hon. Gentleman would see what could be done to assist the rural postmen, rural postmasters, sub-postmasters, and sub-postmistresses in the small country villages, who had such hard and responsible duties to perform, and whose remuneration was extremely small. No doubt the right hon. Gentleman would tell them that there were numerous applications for any of these positions under the Post Office, and that if there happened to be a sub-post office vacant he was overwhelmed with applications. That, however, did not affect the question that if a person did a certain amount of responsible work he should be paid a wage commensurate with that work. That, was the opinion of the majority in this House, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would remember that the class of employees he had referred to were extremely scantily paid. If he would also make some announcement in regard to Canada he would confer a great boon upon that Colony, and also upon the people of this country.

*Mr. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland) said he quite agreed with the sentiments expressed by the right hon. and gallant Member for the Epping Division in regard to sub-postmasters, postmasters and postmistresses. He knew the case of three young men in his district, one of whom had to travel nine miles out and back for 1s. 6d.; another travelled seventeen miles out and back for 2s.; and the third seventeen miles out and back for 1s. 9d. Those were entirely inadequate rates of pay, and while it might be perfectly true that men could be readily obtained, that was no reason why the Post Office should not pay more. They ought to see that a fair rate of wages was paid and set a good example as model employers. Many grievances had been put forward by hon. Members, but they all sank into insignificance beside the grievances of his constituency, which had been absolutely neglected under the new scheme. When he listened to the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer who spoke of the large sums of money which were going to be devoted to securing that every district should have at least three deliveries a week, he felt exhilarated, because he thought at last a brighter day was dawning in the north country. But those hopes which had arisen in his mind and in his constituency had all been dashed to the ground; they were as badly off as ever, and it now appeared that there was not the slightest idea of giving his constituency any portion of this large sum of money for postal reforms. At present the county of Shetland had only one direct mail a week, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would try to do something in the direction of remedying that injustice. The Post Office paid a large sum for their mail service, but he did not think that adequate steps had ever been taken to find out whether better value could not be got for their money than they were getting at the present time. There was only one direct mail service a week for the whole county of Shetland. They were only asking for two direct mails a week all the year round, and that they could not get. The county of Orkney had also its special grievance. The mail leaving London at 8 p.m., Inverness at 9.30 a.m., was due at Thurso at 3.30 p.m., and should arrive at Scapa, Kirkwall, before 8 p.m. Frequently the mails instead of arriving at 8 o'clock at night did not arrive until 11 o'clock, or sometimes later. In order to suit the convenience of the railway companies the right hon. Gentleman allowed the mails for a whole county to dawdle along at the sweet will of the railway companies. The Postmaster-General ought to take the railway companies by the throat, and let them know plainly that the Government would not allow them to treat thus not only the mail of the entire county of Orkney, but the mail of the greater portion of the county of Caithness. There had been in the past an unjustifiable detention of the steamer at Aithhole to pick up or drop the Laidlaw Factor or some shooting tenant. This privilege had been so abused that it had often caused great inconvenience. The predecessor of the right hon. Gentleman gave a pledge that this kind of thing would not be permitted to go on, and he hoped the Postmaster-General would see that that pledge was carried out to the effect that the mail steamer should not stop if it would cause delay of over ten minutes.

Another grievance to which he desired to call the attention of the right hon. Gentleman had reference to the delivery of mails from Kirkwall to the North Isles. The straightforward and the cheapest plan would be to start at one point one day and to travel all that day until the destination was reached, and to return on the following day. The people in the districts served were perfectly satisfied that could be done. He admitted that the Post Office was paying a very large sum for the Orkney and Shetland service, but at the same time he maintained that where the public interest was concerned, all other considerations should be put aside at once. These matters were eally of vast importance to a considerable section of the community. The people who lived in distant parts were entitled to far more consideration at the hands of the Postmaster-General than those who lived merely in the suburbs of London. Referring to the delivery of mails on Sunday in Scotland, he said he was sure the Postmaster-General knew that the Scottish people were nothing if not Sabbatarians. He thought a considerable sum of money could be saved by discontinuing certain mail cart and foot services which were provided at present all over Scotland on Sunday, only for the purpose of delivering a few letters which might very well be delivered on Monday. Where he lived in Ayrshire mails were driven over sixty miles out and home. [AN HON. MEMBER: With one horse ?] With one horse, but changed at stages. This was not a question of horseflesh, but a question of breaking the Sabbath day and the incurring of unnecessary cost. If the right hon. Gentleman would put a stop to these Sunday deliveries he would do much to commend himself in the eyes of religious Scotland.

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somersetshire, Wellington) said he sympathised with the remarks of the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland, but perhaps he would be surprised to hear that some people who lived in Somersetshire, within 160 miles of London, were in the same position as those in the northern islands in respect to postal facilities. The case had been brought before the Post Office for many years, but little or no improvement had been made. Some of the farmers had their letters delivered four days a week, others three days a week, and others only two days a week. The hardship of this condition of affairs arose in this way. Most of these people tried to make a living by selling poultry, eggs, butter, and cream, and it was obvious that unless they could rely on getting orders in time they could not properly carry on their trade. Another way of living was by letting lodgings in the summer months, and in these days unless business men could get their letters and newspapers every morning they would not take the lodgings. The result was a serious loss of income to a certain number of his constituents. Another disadvantage was that stockbuyers who sent letters intimating their intention to visit farmers sometimes arrived before the letters were delivered. It might happen that the farmers had to send some miles off for the stock. He hoped the Postmaster-General would look into the matter. He knew the old argument was that such a service would not pay, but no one could say that it would not pay until it was tried. He had never agreed with the Post Office opinion that all services should bring an immediate profit to the State. The farmers and small traders paid rates and taxes, and they were quite as much entitled to a daily delivery of letters as the richer people who lived in other districts.

*Mr. MORTON (Sutherlandshire) asked who gave the instructions to the British representatives at the recent Postal Conference at Rome. These matters apparently were settled by the officials. He believed he was right in saying that the Postmaster-General was in favour of universal penny postage, but unfortunately the right hon. Gentleman had not much to say in the matter. It was a well known fact that the Post Office permanent officials were always against reform of any sort whatever. Every improvement in the postal system of this country for the last hundred years, including penny postage, had had to be forced on the officials from the outside. To-day the Committee were told that the adoption of universal penny postage would mean a loss of £500,000. The hon. Member for Canterbury calculated that the loss would be £125,000 for the first year. He would sooner take the hon. Member's calculation than that of the Post Office officials, because he had been right throughout and they had been wrong. So far as was known not a single shilling had been lost through the adoption of Imperial penny postage. Before our representatives were sent to Rome the opinion of this House should have been consulted on the question of universal penny postage. The proposal at the Conference in favour of universal penny postage was supported by the representatives of New Zealand and the United States but opposed by this country. He knew that the Postmaster-General had said that our representatives did not vote. They withdrew and he was rather ashamed of them for having done so. He should have liked to have seen this country taking a leading part in bringing about this reform for the welfare of the people, for there was no doubt that the extension of postal facilities tended to good feeling throughout the world. There was something in the newspapers about reducing the postage from 2½d. to 2d., and he understood that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had provided for that loss in the Budget Estimates of this year. What was the Postmaster-General going to do with that money? What he wanted was reforms for the benefit of the people of this country. He did not think there was very much in the complaint about the Canadians having American magazines. He had lived on the American continent for ten years, and he found that the American magazines were better than the English. ["Oh, oh!"] Hon. Gentlemen shook their heads, but probably there was not much more in their heads than in some of the English magazines. ["Oh!"] He insisted that a very large number of American magazines were superior to the English magazines. Canadians preferred to read the American magazines rather than some of those produced here. He wanted to call attention to the sweating that was going on in the making of the uniforms for the men in the postal service. For instance, the contractors in the East End of London paid only 6½d. for making a pair of trousers. The middlemen were making a huge profit while the poor wretches who made the trousers were starving. He advocated that the uniforms should be made in Government factories so as to ensure that the real workers were paid a proper wage. Something had been said about introducing politics into the Post Office. When their friends on the Opposition Benches were in office they packed all these billets with Tory officials, and the result was that they could not get any reform.

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY (City of London) asked if it was in order to accuse a Government of packing offices with their friends.

The CHAIRMAN thought that the remark of the hon. Gentleman might cause unnecessary pain, and that it was one which ought not to be made.

*MR. MORTON said that at the suggestion of the Chairman he would withdraw the remark, and there was an end of it; but he was not surprised that his friends opposite were angry about it, their consciences pricked them. He complained that postal and telegraphic facilities in Sutherlandshire were incomplete; some places in that county were twenty miles from a telegraph office, and there were parts of the district where there was only one delivery of letters in the week. That meant that the people could not do their business properly. Moreover, he wanted to know whether the promise of the Prime Minister in regard to colonising our own country was to be carried out. He was afraid that nobody in Downing Street, in spite of that promise, knew anything about colonising. He himself had lived for ten years in the Colonies, and he could assure the Committee that never yet had Downing Street been able to govern a Colony properly. The Colonies only succeeded when they were granted the rights of self-government. That was why Canada was making such leaps and bounds in the way of progress. What the Colonies got was railway communication, postal and telegraphic facilities in order that the settlers might obtain the latest information as regarded prices for their produce. However, what he wanted to press was that the Prime Minister should carry out his promise that we should colonise our own country. There was room in Sutherlandshire for a further population of 50,000 people. One of the difficulties in Sutherlandshire was that, except on the east coast, there was no railway communication, and his right hon. friend the Postmaster-General had not only neglected to, but had refused to give further Post Office facilities in his constituency. This was a serious matter to those farmers, crofters and fishermen who were struggling to get a living. Sutherlandshire had a right to have its reasonable demands in regard to postal facilities acceded to. There was mismanagement with regard to sending the mails by the new motor cars from Lairg to Lochinoh. He understood that that matter was still under the consideration of his right hon. friend, and that he had not yet given a final answer. It was their duty to consider the people who resided in Great Britain and Ireland and to endeavour to make them self-supporting and not to waste millions on wars and rumours of wars.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said they had had a most interesting discussion as to the necessity of providing further postal facilities. In regard to that subject he was sure that he never thought that he would be standing there, if the Postmaster-General would allow him, to take the part of that right hon. Gentleman. It must be remembered that although there was a large profit on the Post Office Department, that profit went to defray State expenses, and if the Post Office gave the facilities which hon Gentlemen were asking for they were only taking the money out of one pocket to put it into another, because if the money was spent in the way asked for the result would be that taxation would have to be increased. It was on that ground that, if he would allow him, he wished to say a few words on behalf of the right hon. Gentleman. It had been said that this was not a Party question, and he agreed. It was not a Party question, but a question of business. An hon. Member had alluded to the fact that something like half a million of money appeared in these Estimates for the conveyance of mails upon the roads and had said that that represented about 3 per cent. interest on £20,000,000 of capital. He gathered, however, from the hon. Member's speech that he desired that a large sum of money should be spent upon electric traction without incurring any additional cost. He would point out that a considerable portion of this money was spent in conveying mails in the country, and that it would be impossible on country roads to provide electric traction. No doubt motor traction could be provided, but he had no doubt that that would be much more expensive than the present system. This was a question which had been exercising the minds of the great railway companies in England, who were endeavouring to see if they could not do away with horse and substitute motor traction. The Midland Railway Company had instituted a few motor traction cars, and the right hon. Gentleman was himself making an experiment in regard to a few vehicles of the same class. For himself, he should like to see a system of motor traction instituted, but it must be remembered that as far as the conveyance of goods and parcels was concerned, motor traction was in its infancy, and experience tended to show that while, where they could find a large quantity of heavy goods on a particular road motor traction could be made profitable, where the number of parcels was small motor traction was very much more expensive than horse traction. As far as the Postmaster-General was concerned he thought the right hon. Gentleman had done well to institute in a small degree experiments in motor traction without committing himself to a large expenditure in that direction. His right hon. friend the Member for the Epping Division had alluded to the condition of the horses in the mail carts; and here again he felt compelled to take the part of the Postmaster-General. The condition of the horses in the mail vans was a few years ago extremely bad, and he had the honour of making an inspection of them at the request of the late Postmaster-General. He thought the result was a considerable improvement of the horses and that that improvement had been maintained since. If the right hon. Gentleman the present Postmaster-General asked him to perform a similar office he would be glad to carry it out again. As to wireless telegraphy he could not say whether it would be a commercial success, but up to the present moment it had not been, although the experiments had been interesting. The right hon. Gentleman had not mentioned what the loss would be in regard to his reductions in the charges on postal orders. He should like to know the amount. As to the appointment of a Committee of the House with regard to the wages of Post Office employees he did not propose to go into that question as the Committee was still sitting. He himself had had rather a curious experience in regard to this question in the course of his contest at Peckham. It had, however, nothing to do with his candidature or anything of that sort. He had a discussion with a postman who was exceedingly frank in stating his views, and he did not, after listening to those views, quite agree with the appointment of this Committee. That postman was under the impression that the only way in which he could get his salary increased—he did not blame him, human nature being what it was: he said that the only thing that concerned him was to get a rise in his wages—but he was under the impression that the only way to get that rise was to get his Member to vote for this Committee of Inquiry. For himself he had always refused to give any pledges to do that sort of thing, because it put Members in a very awkward position. If the Committee did not recommend or the House did not agree to a rise in wages there would be a good deal of disappointment, to say nothing of the pressure which would once again be brought to bear upon Members of Parliament by Post Office employees. [LABOUR cries of "Why not?"] He thought there was a very excellent reason against it. If the Committee were going to say that the whole of the Civil service were to use their votes to make Members vote for an increase of their salaries, he thought they were entering upon a very dangerous course. He remembered a brilliant speech by the late Sir William Harcourt, in which that right hon. Gentleman said he hoped both sides would resist any such pressure, and he regretted to hear that any hon. Member thought otherwise. Another point was that if they granted a large increase of salaries, a large number of taxpayers would resist because money would be taken out of their pockets and put into those of others, when they were not in a much better position, if any, than the recipients of the increased wages. The hon. Member for Canterbury was very wise in calling attention to the losses on the telegraph service, and he hoped it would be a warning to the right hon. Gentleman not to accede to the demand of the hon. Member for Sutherlandshire to give him further telegraphic facilities in the county he represented. He could not know what the cost would be until he had tried the changes. There was not the slightest doubt that the reduction of telegraphic charges had caused loss, although when the reduction was made it was expected to be profitable. The reduction having been made, however, it was difficult to go back to the old charge, and he thought the right hon. Gentleman would find that to be the case if he made the reductions now suggested. He had only one other point to which he wished to allude, and that was with regard to the medical officers. He found on page 68 of the Estimates that certain salaries were given to medical officers, and on page 82 that a payment was made to them of 8s. 6d. per head. Those payments altogether amounted to £720. What he wished to know was whether the payment of 8s. 6d. per head was in addition to the salary.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: No, the two things are quite separate.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said he was glad to hear it. He would conclude by hoping that the right hon. Gentleman would be a little stiff with regard to the concessions that had been asked for.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON assured the hon. Member for Sutherlandshire and the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland that he was quite as much alive as they were to the importance of increased postal and telegraphic facilities in the distant parts to which they had alluded. It was not a question of profit. On the contrary, there was always a loss on the postal facilities to these distant parts, and the question that must arise in regard to all those special cases was whether the increased burden was justified. Upon the general question, he hoped the postal reforms to which he had referred in his opening statement would be of great profit to the country. He assured the hon. Member for Sutherland that he was carefully considering the proposals he had brought before him. With regard to the question of motors, the postal authorities already made some use of motors, and they were at the present time in negotiation for a more extended use, and intended to use them to the utmost extent on the main posts. And, of course, any advantage that accrued to the main posts from their use must accrue to the branch posts. He thought the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland had rather exaggerated the conditions which obtained in the postal service to those districts, because there were already three deliveries a week in the winter, and five in the summer.

MR. CATHCART WASON: Not in the ordinary sense of a delivery every other day.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he understood that the hon. Member proposed to bring a deputation to him and he would be glad to go into the details then. The right hon. Member for the Wellington Division of Somerset mentioned the case of Exbourne. If the right hon. Member would draw his special attention to the conditions prevailing in that particular district he would do his best to meet his view, and he hoped under the new arrangements he would be able to do so. If the hon. Member for South Tyrone could suggest, as he had intimated, immense improvements in the postal service at no cost at all he should be delighted to meet him in any suggestions he had to make.

The hon. Member for Sleaford had referred to the question of vaccination. All he could say in reply was that, rightly or wrongly, the general system of the British Civil service was that the men engaged in it should be vaccinated. If that was right in regard to other Departments it was still more necessary and right in regard to the postal service. He assumed that vaccination was an advantage. That was the basis of the system of compulsory vaccination for the Civil service. If that was so, it must be quite clear that the men in the Postal service were the ones that ought of all others to be vaccinated, as they ran greater risk not only of contracting smallpox themselves but of carrying the contagion among the public. They had to go to poor districts and had to handle all sorts of packages, and in the sorting office more men were employed in one room than in any other Department of the Civil service. Last year in the whole of the postal service, comprising 150,000 men, there was no case of death or retirement caused either by smallpox or vaccination. The noble Lord the Member for Oxford had raised the question of reduced cost for the supply of literature to the blind. It had not yet been possible for him to decide definitely the final basis upon which the concession should be founded, but its general line would be a material reduction in the cost of parcels post under restrictions that would confine it to *bona-fide* cases. The hon. Member for Bethnal Green had raised a question in respect to contractors' carmen. He sympathised with the views expressed with regard to the excessive hours of work and the inadequate wage paid. But the difficulty in regard to contractors' employees was that it would involve an entire change in the system to give direct employment and necessitate large annual expenditure in building and so on, and that was one of the matters he had not yet been able to give proper attention to. As regarded the question of wages under existing contracts, he had done his best, when his attention had been drawn to any particular case, to insist as far as he could upon what seemed to be a fair wage and fair conditions. He would be glad to look into any specific case his hon. friend brought to him. The great difficulty was that there was no recognised rate of wages. He was giving considerable attention to the matter. The deputation which he was going to receive next week might be able to throw some light on the matter. Unfortunately, he was very much tied, because the contracts ranged over a very considerable period. That, of course, did not affect the fair wages clause. In any new contract he should certainly see that the proper conditions prevailed. In a case in which he did not think the employer was in a position to carry out the conditions of labour he had given notice to terminate the contract. He was endeavouring to arrive at some conclusion with the Canadian Government as to postage of Canadian newspapers. He recognised the great services rendered by the hon. Member for Canterbury to the cause of postal reform; but he would remind him that it was easier to devise reforms than to get from the Treasury the money necessary to carry them out. He believed the hon. Member for Sutherland thought that the whole of the surplus ought to be applied to Post Office reform, or, at all events, a large portion of it.

MR. MORTON: I did not say that, but I will say it now if you like.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that of course he did not agree with his hon. friend on that point. He thought the revenue from the Post Office must be used as some relief to the taxpayer. The question of the amount of money that ought to be given to the Postmaster-General was a source of perpetual difference and argument between the two offices concerned. As to the suggestion of the hon. Member for Canterbury that postcards should be sold for their face value, his attention was directed to that matter when he considered how best to dispose of the sum which the Treasury gave him on this occasion. To have carried out the reform suggested would have cost between £30,000 and £40,000 a year, and he came to the conclusion that the reform he had introduced would be more useful. The hon. Gentleman's wish, however, was one which he would like to see carried out, and when he got a little more money out of the Treasury perhaps he might be able to bring it about. In regard to the loss of articles in the post, where it was due to the fault of the Post Office he was willing to give proper compensation, but the Postmaster-General could not be liable for any amount of damages where there was a difference of opinion in regard to the value of a particular article. An important point which had been made and for which something might be said was that under proper conditions a letter which had been posted ought to be able to be recalled. With regard to universal penny postage, it would involve an initial cost of £500,000 a year; and as there would be no profit on a foreign letter carried for 1d., it was impossible that any increase in correspondence should make up for the initial loss. The hon. Gentleman had said that the loss would be £125,000 a year, but he did not understand where the hon. Gentleman got his figures from. Last October the hon. Member, in a letter to the *Times*, stated that the cost of universal penny postage would be £375,000 a year. He could not see how the two figures could be made to correspond.

*Mr. HENNIKER HEATON said the increase of letters accounted for it.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said the point they were discussing was the initial cost. However, he would not trouble the Committee further, only maintaining that the figure he gave was the correct one.

Mr. MORTON: Will the right hon. Gentleman reply upon the clothing question.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON reminded the hon. member that in his opening remarks he said that up to now the Postmaster-General had possessed no means of looking into the conditions of labour which prevailed under the contracts. But he had been able to appoint an inspector for this purpose, and he hoped that in future the Department would be in a better condition to look into and to control the conditions of labour under contracts.

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport) urged the claims of poor old soldiers for employment in the Post Office service, and called attention to the possible overburdening of rural postmen owing to the number of parcels containing agricultural and other produce that had to be carried. Had anything been done in the direction of getting into communication with the officers in command of depots and others for the purpose of giving employment to old soldiers, and had any steps been taken to increase the number of soldiers employed in this way? He did not think there could be any more legitimate demand made than that these positions should be made available to old soldiers and sailors. [Why?"] It was his opinion that those who had served their country in the Army and Navy had a very strong claim for these positions.

Mr. J. WARD: I agree with the right hon. Gentleman if they are competent for the business they undertake.

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY: Allowing that they were competent, he thought they had a fair claim to those positions. Rural postmen did not require to be highly educated men, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give full consideration to this matter, and get in touch in the rural districts with those who were able to tell him who were the right men to employ. He was glad to hear that the right hon. Gentleman had given increased facilities for the carrying of agricultural produce. He did not in the least wish to minimise the value of that boon, but he was afraid that the result would be that the number of parcels piled upon the back and shoulders of the rural postmen, who often had to go across fields and cross roads, would be enormously increased. Those who saw the rural postmen labouring under all these difficulties must feel with him that there ought to be some limit. He hoped some means would be found by which these men would be relieved, as it was not fair that in consequence of this change there should be put upon these men a burden which they could not reasonably be expected to carry. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give his attention to this matter.

Mr. AINSWORTH (Argyllshire) said that the proposed increase in the number of deliveries of letters to private houses in the Highlands, where the houses were extremely scattered, might involve a very large expenditure. He thought it would be of much greater benefit to the district to give a better mail service than an increase in the deliveries of letters. He desired to thank the Postmaster-General for the enormous boon he had conferred upon the West Coast by enabling them to have the London mail earlier.

Mr. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway) said that if there was any Government Department in which good service should be extended to the people it was the Post Office. He was glad to hear from the Postmaster-General that he had been successful in getting back from the Chancellor of the Exchequer a reasonable proportion of the profits of the Post Office, and he hoped a fair share of that money would reach Ireland. He regretted that he could not agree with some of the conclusions of the hon. Member for Sutherland, who found fault generally with the Post Office service, which he said contrasted very unfavourably with the service he had seen in the Colonies. He could not agree with that contention. The telegraph service in this country was at the disposal of the Government and the telephone system was also largely controlled by them, whereas in Canada both telegraphs and telephones belonged to companies which were in no way controlled by the Government, nor were they established on so good a basis as in this country. In Canada their letters were not brought to the doors, and in many respects comparisons were odious. With regard to the charge of filling the Department with the friends of politicians, that kind of thing existed to a certain extent everywhere. Unfortunately, it existed in Ireland, and many of those in charge of the administration of post offices in Ireland neither belonged to Ireland nor understood the postal wants of the country. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would make some statement in regard to the representations which had been made to him in relation to Canada. He did not agree with the statement that the magazines and publications of this country were inferior to those of the United States; he thought they were of just as high an order as those published in America. The fact was that a demand had been made throughout Canada and other portions of the Empire for better facilities to obtain those publications, in order that they might be placed within the reach of Canadians. That request had not only come from the Press of Canada, and the large body of readers in that Colony, but it had formed the subject of a very important debate in the Canadian Senate, during which it was supported by prominent members of the Canadian Government and the Opposition. A Resolution in this direction was passed by the Canadian Government and forwarded to the Postmaster-General of the late Government. He knew that there was a strong feeling in Canada upon the subject. He took exception to the statement of the Postmaster-General that Irish Members ought to be grateful for all he had done for Ireland by the extension of the telephone. Year in and year out he had asked the Post Office to extend the telephone system from Dublin to Galway, and nothing had been done; but now that the Postmaster-General was rich enough to give so many millions to the Chancellor of the Exchequer he hoped a telephonic trunk line between the extreme east and west of Ireland would be established. Representations had been made to the Postmaster-General by leading bodies in Dublin and Galway in favour of the establishment of the telephone system between the two cities. He wished to remind the right hon. Gentleman of a subject which was brought before him some months ago in the form of a Question, namely, the manufacture of postmen's clothes. The contracts for clothing were not at that time given so freely and extensively in Ireland as they might have been. While he did not object to employment being given in this country, he did object to the means of livelihood being taken away from a considerable section of the Irish population. The figures which had been placed before the House showed that the people were going away from Ireland in considerable numbers because they could not find employment. By placing more contracts in Ireland for clothing, the Postmaster-General could not only do good work for the people there, but obtain for the Department the very articles which were required. The right hon. Gentleman told him that a little contract had been given, but he himself thought more might have been done in this direction. Referring to the despatch of letters to New York by the mail leaving at the middle of the week, he said that on Wednesday he posted a letter for America, believing that it was in time for the mail. In order to be sure he asked the postmaster whether it was in time, and he discovered that it was not. One could never be sure as to the departure of mails for the United States and Canada on Wednesday, there being no fixed and regular hour of closing. He understood that the inconvenience of which he complained arose from the White Star line being unable sometimes to provide fast steamers, and that the Post Office was obliged on these occasions to send the mails by German steamers from Southampton. He asked the right hon. Gentleman to look into this matter with the view of getting the White Star line to make their fast steamers available for the carrying of the mails.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON, who was indistinctly heard, was understood to say that certain figures which he quoted were not inconsistent with others which an hon. Member had given.

***MR. ROWLANDS** (Kent, Dartford) thanked the Postmaster-General for extending the telegraphic facilities in the country. He stated that he was the first Member of Parliament to call attention to the grievances of the mail-cart drivers, and he had to discuss it with former Postmaster-Generals. He found that nothing much had been done. He pressed upon the Postmaster-General the importance of scheduling the hours to be worked by the mail-cart drivers in future contracts. He knew that the right hon. Gentleman would find great difficulty in getting anything like accurate information as to the hours now worked by the men.

MR. PICKERSGILL thanked the Postmaster-General for his reply, and asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment by leave withdrawn.

Original Question again proposed.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) expressed regret that the Postmaster-General should have allowed himself to say of the secretary of Lloyd's, Sir H. Hozier, that he issued a circular which was a travesty of the truth. Sir H. Hozier was a gentleman with a reputation second to none in the city of London, and it was most unfortunate that the right hon. Gentleman should have used such strong language regarding him. In respect to the question of wireless telegraphy, he understood that the idea of the Government in what they proposed to do was to prevent foreigners, in case of war, being able to take advantage of this country. In order to do that they had made a contract with the Marconi Company. He found that the directors of that company who were going to protect us against foreign invasion were M. de Volder (President), M. Balser, M. de Coe Thys, M. M. Travailleur, G. Marconi, A. Ochs, I. Lowr, M. Renouard, M. Ch. Roux, M. E. de St. Paul de Sincary, Eruesto M Pinto, and M. Nagelruackers.

MR. J. WARD: Is the hon. Member satisfied that that is not a Transvaal mining company?

MR. W. RUTHERFORD: That is a very unseemly interruption.

And, it being a quarter-past Eight of the clock, and there being Private Business set down, by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means, under Standing Order No. 8, further proceeding was postponed without Question put.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (MONEY) BILL [BY ORDER].

Order for consideration, as amended, read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill, as amended, be now considered."

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) said that in moving that this Bill should be considered upon that day three months, he had no desire to interfere with nor had he any hostility to the municipal enterprise of the London County Council. But he thought it was only right that, in the public interest, an explanation should be given to the House of Commons of the expenditure of the London County Council whenever they came to the House, as in this instance, for Parliamentary sanction for loans on an exceedingly large scale. In the case of any ordinary borough or city, where sanction for loans had to be obtained, it was necessary to have a local inquiry presided over by a representative of the Local Government Board. But, in the case of the London County Council, the House of Commons was put in the position of the inspector of the Local Government Board. He thought it would be admitted that there was some grounds for inquiry into, or at any rate, explanation of, the growing increase in the indebtedness of the London County Council. When the London County Council succeeded the Metropolitan Board of Works in 1889 their indebtedness was about £17,000,000. In dealing with the London County Council finance, there were two heads which had to be considered—money borrowed for their own purposes, and money borrowed for the purpose of re-lending it to subsidiary authorities. He wanted to deal now only with the money which the London County Council had borrowed for their own purposes. As he had said, when the London County Council succeeded the Metropolitan Board of Works their indebtedness was £17,000,000. Ten years afterwards it had increased to £21,000,000; but by 1905 it had attained to the vast amount of £44,000,000. He was not for a moment posing as a person who would take up a strong position on one side or the other. What he wanted was that some explanation should be given to the House of this extraordinary increase. He found that the original estimate for the building of Vauxhall Bridge was £484,000, and that the revised estimate was £535,000, or a difference of £50,000. He would like to know whether that revised estimate meant the total cost of the bridge, or if there was an additional sum yet to be paid? Again, the original estimate of the cost of the Strand improvements was £4,800,000, while the actual cost was £5,186,000. What was the explanation of these large miscalculations? Was it the fact, that after certain people had received compensation, it was found that their buildings would not be required owing to changes in the original plan? He would like to know why the large island area facing the Strand was not put into the market, and was only used for temporary purposes by the Salvation Army. There seemed to be a lack of proper organisation and foresight in regard to these Strand improvements. There were other two items which demanded particular notice. The first was the river steamboat service. The original estimate of the cost was £280,000, the revised estimate was £304,000, while the loss on the service last year was £51,000. He wanted to know whether it was intended to carry on that steamboat service in the winter as well as in the summer. To a very indirect extent he was interested in this matter, because he once invested £100 in a steamboat company which the London County Council had run off the river. He had not sustained a very substantial loss, because he had never expected a dividend, but he should very much like, from a business point of view, to know whether the London County Council were going to run a winter service at a prospective loss of £50,000. Then there was the question of the tramways. A very large loan was being asked for for the extension of the tramways, and he wished the hon. Gentleman who represented the London County Council would give the House some explanation of this large additional expenditure. Was it the fact that the London County Council, in carrying a large amount to the reserve fund of the tramway enterprise, were acting in direct opposition to the recommendations of their Finance Committee? In view of the steamboat enterprise not turning out so well as the County Council anticipated, was that body justified in being so optimistic about the taking over of the northern system of tramways and asking sanction for exceedingly large loans in connection with it? He attached great weight to this question of increased municipal expenditure at the present time. The harsh incidence of taxation caused not only suffering among people with fixed incomes and small professional men, but the removal of industries from London to other places where the rates were less. They were now asked to sanction a very large sum of money for the building of a great county hall on the other side of Westminster Bridge—a very expensive quarter. Surely that was a luxury which might very well be deferred for a few years. He moved that the Bill be considered that day three months.

*Mr. R. DUNCAN (Lanarkshire, Govan) seconded the Amendment. He said that no doubt in regard to the administration of large centres of population we were moving towards socialism of some kind or another, but the services which were rendered by bodies like the London County Council had some dangerous aspects. They had in fact their dark shadow as well as their bright side. He would not say a word in condemnation of the river service and other schemes which had been carried out by the London County Council, but that body must not train our people to think that they were born with a large silver spoon in their mouth, but should encourage self-reliance, energy and individual enterprise.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. Rawlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

*MR. WOOD (Glasgow, St. Rollox) said he gathered from the hon. Member for Cambridge University that he did not intend to press this Amendment to a division. If he did it would be a most unusual course in regard to a Money Bill of the London County Council, having regard to the peculiar position in which London County Council finance stood under the Standing Orders of Parliament. If the Bill were lost there would be chaos in the municipal administration of London, but he understood the hon. Member would not press his Motion, but was rather desirous of being reassured. There was nothing from which the County Council suffered more than financial criticism without knowledge. There was a general vague impression that the Council was responsible for every rise in the rates. The rates of the County Council ten years ago were 1s. 3d. in the £; they were in the current year 1s. 5d. in the £. That increase of 2d. was not enormous, considering that the County Council had inherited from the Metropolitan Board of Works great arrears of work which had to be carried out in the interests of the health and welfare of Londoners.

MR. RAWLINSON said he was not referring to the 1s. 3d. and the 1s. 5d.; the more important aspect of the matter was that the County Council had raised the rateable value of London, and he was referring to the actual amount of rates.

*MR. WOOD said that that increase in the rateable value argued that great improvements had taken place, and that much new property had been created. But, of course, the creation of new property carried with it increased obligations, and the Council had had to extend their main drainage system and fire brigade. A much more serious thing for the citizens than the increase in rates was the increase in rents. In accounting for the rise of rates he had first of all to point out that they suffered from a serious falling off in the surplus from the Exchequer contributions available for reducing rates. About fourteen or fifteen years ago the London County Council was able to apply from the Exchequer grants £290,000 in relief of rates. Since then the gross amount had increased very slightly, but the duties placed on the Council of paying money out of these grants for statutory purposes had so increased that they were now only able to apply £30,000. That accounted for ¾d. out of the 2d. It was not increase of expenditure but diminution of receipts. These grants were expected to be a very important and growing relief to local rates when first sanctioned by Parliament, but the Royal Commission on Local Taxation which reported some time ago admitted in the frankest manner that London had been very unfairly treated in this matter. He had accounted for ¾d. The next item to which he would like to allude was the large Strand improvement that had been undertaken by the London County Council at the desire of the people of London and at the urgent request of the Party to which the hon. Member opposite belonged. He remembered Lord Rosebery once saying that the policy of the Party opposite was to lower the rates and to widen the Strand. Those were two things that could not be accomplished by one operation. The cost of the Strand and the Westminster improvements, which was a temporary charge, had added to the debt of London £6,250,000, and the service of the debt this year cost London £175,000, or about 1d. rate. Then there was the case of the steam-boats, which had cost a farthing rate. Main drainage had also cost a good deal, and the increase of the fire brigade, largely caused by the disastrous fires in the City of London, cost another halfpenny. So that he had accounted for more than the 2d., which had been the rise in the rates on the last ten years. The hon. Member for Cambridge University said that in 1899 their debt was only £21,000,000, and that it was now £44,000,000, but he had forgotten to mention to the House that Parliament had placed on the Council the responsibility for the education of London, and with that had placed on their shoulders the old School Board debt of £11,500,000. That was a substantial figure which he thought ought in common justice to be mentioned, but which in political controversy was frequently ignored. With regard to Vauxhall Bridge, he was informed that the figure mentioned in the Bill would not be exceeded. He was not surprised that some explanation had been asked for with regard to the Strand improvement, but the answer was a very simple one. There had been no increase in the expenditure, and the amount now asked for was not to pay greater compensation. It was a bookkeeping item. The Clare market scheme and the Strand improvement were dealt with nearly at the same time. The County Council had intended to re-house a number of the people who were displaced by the improvement on the Clare Market area. But it was eventually found desirable to re-house them elsewhere, and the cost of the land no longer required for this purpose had been added to the cost of the improvement. It was a mere book-keeping entry which required them to deal with it in this way, and the change had resulted in a saving of money. The property for the Strand improvement had been acquired within the estimate of the County Council's valuer, which was made at the beginning of the undertaking. With regard to the steamboats, he trusted they would not be run during the winter months. They had had some experience of running a few during last winter, and it was obvious that the traffic was more or less a summer traffic. There was, however, one important fact to be noticed with regard to the steamboat service. In the first place, all the witnesses before the Committee were perfectly clear in saying they did not expect the business to be carried on without loss during the first few years. Several of them thought it would ultimately be carried on at a profit, and time alone could prove whether their anticipations would be realised. Another curious thing was that they had never brought forward a project that was so strongly supported by the borough councils of London. They came forward one after the other and said they wished the project carried out; that they were prepared to pay their share of the loss; that they hoped it would not be much, but that they thought the service would be well worth a rate of a farthing or a halfpenny. So far the loss had been about a farthing. The traffic had improved. They had carried 240,000 passengers in Whit week, and had been carrying between 45,000 and 90,000 passengers a week during the last two months. Not only had the County Council the support of the borough councils, but they had the support of the entire Press without regard to politics. They were urged to take this step by the entire Press of London. He would give only one example. The *St. James's Gazette*, not an advocate of municipal trading, had thus exhorted them—

> "That great neglected highway lies within a stone's throw of Spring Gardens. Let the London County Council neglect it no longer. At present they are neglecting not only the river but their duty."

Mr. Hayes Fisher, the late Member for Fulham, gave evidence in favour of the scheme, as well as the present Member for Hammersmith. It was not a Party undertaking. It was undertaken with the full admission of the County Council that they did not expect any immediate financial profit. With regard to the new County Hall, he might say that at the present moment the County Council was housed in nearly thirty different buildings, and he put it to any practical business man whether that was not a spendthrift and unsatisfactory way of conducting public business. They could have no control over it, and it led to an enormous waste of time. They were building on the other side of the Thames not a palace but a workshop, and they thought it right that they should provide a workshop which was efficient and in which work could be done without waste of time and without extravagance. The hon. Member had said the tramways were a debatable point. He could not understand how anybody could look at the London tramways without seeing that London had in them an extremely valuable asset, and that the investment from the point of view of the ratepayers was an extremely profitable one. The small actual balance was no adequate test during a period of reconstruction, when miles of horse-tramways were being relaid for electric traction and traffic was dislocated. But they might take another test. They found as they changed from horse to electric traction the number of their passengers increased, and that the earning powers of the trams increased in a large measure. They had reckoned that if they got 1s. a car per mile it would be a profitable return, because the expense of hiring electric power from a company was 8d., which left 4d. for the payment of interest and sinking fund. They further estimated that when the station at Greenwich was complete the cost of electric power would be about 7d., and that station was now working. As a matter of fact, the expense of the electricity from a company had been a little less than 8d., and the receipts had been a little above 1s., and their margin for the interest and the sinking fund had averaged 4½d. instead of 4d. During the last two years the actual results had been better than they estimated by about £30,000 a year. He protested against the practice of looking at municipal finance without having regard to sinking fund. The sinking fund contained the money laid by for the redemption of debt. In the case of the tramways the greater part of the debt would be redeemed in twenty-five years, and supposing they made no profits but merely sufficient to keep up the interest out of revenue, while laying by the necessary amount for renewals, they had a sinking fund which would create a very valuable property for London in the future. They had already laid by £450,000. But they were doing better than that. He would like to call attention to a comparison made between the returns of municipal undertakings and those of private companies. That was of course taking the two accounts on the same basis. In the case of the London County Council southern tramways for the year ending March 31st, 1905, the capital expenditure was £2,600,000, and the profit on working was £203,000, the percentage of profit to capital expenditure being over 7½ per cent. The London United Tramways Company for the year ending December, 1904, with a capital expenditure of £2,900,000, made a profit of £120,000, or a percentage of 4·1 per cent. The amount placed to reserve and depreciation accounts was £66,600 in the case of the Council trams, against £5,000 by the London United Tramways. At that time the Council were not generating their own electricity. To show the profitableness of electric traction as compared with horse traction he might inform the House that from Greenwich to the bridges in the last complete year of horse traction the receipts were £98,490; the 1905 receipts, under electric traction, were £169,000. The passengers carried were 23,000,000 in the former period, and in the latter 37,000,000. They looked to the number of persons carried as much as to the receipts. They embarked on these enterprises not solely to make money for the ratepayers, but to provide services for them which would not be provided by private enterprise. In the case of private ventures, routes which were immediately profitable must be chosen; but the London County Council could have regard to the development of traffic as affecting the housing of the people and the business interests of the town. They had tried to serve not one class, but all classes of the community. The people of London must become accustomed to large figures, for London had the population of a province and the wealth of a kingdom. They were bound to see that the resources of their great city were wisely and economically, but not stingily, administered.

SIR F. BANBURY said he had previously understood that the profits of municipal trading were to go in the relief of rates. He now understood from the hon. Gentleman it was not so, but that it was a kind of philanthropic enterprise.

*MR. WOOD said the hon. Gentleman was not accurately representing what he said. He mentioned distinctly that they were very willing to make profits, but that they regarded municipal enterprise as having further reaching and more important effects.

SIR F. BANBURY said he now gathered that profit was a consideration, but only a secondary one. He agreed that if the Amendment were carried the result would be chaos in London county finance, and for that reason he trusted it would not be pressed to a division. He would have liked to move that some of the clauses should be referred back to the Committee, for they had a far-reaching financial effect. They were not clauses connected in any way with the administration of the expenditure of the London County Council. He was raising the question merely in the interests of sound finance. He objected to Clause 4 because it provided not for one year's expenditure, but for expenditure for eighteen months. He contended that the estimates of the London County Council submitted to the House should be framed for one year, and not for eighteen months, in order that the House might retain its control. There was no magic in eighteen months, and if the principle were admitted it might easily be said that authority should be obtained for two or three years. A very serious point was raised in regard to Clause 15 because it allowed the provision for the redemption of the Sinking Fund to be abolished. [Cries of "No."] Then what did it mean? Perhaps the hon. Gentleman would explain.

*MR. WOOD: It certainly does not mean that.

SIR F. BANBURY said it meant the use of the money which had been put by for the Sinking Fund. Was not that correct? The hon. Gentleman did not answer. That being correct, then, it meant the use of money put by for the Sinking Fund, and that was the worst possible thing that could be done in finance; the Sinking Fund should be kept as a sacred trust for a certain purpose. It was not new, it had been done by other municipalities. The next point was one in connection with Clause 17, where practically dividend was allowed to be paid out of capital. That was a mistake when applied to companies, and led to reckless finance, but to give such power to a municipality like the London County Council was sheer madness. Why should they use to pay interest money which they had borrowed? Their duty was to pay interest out of the revenue they raised. He had put three extremely important points, which he was quite certain could not be answered.

*MR. DICKINSON said he rose to reply to the three points put by the last speaker. But first he wished to express satisfaction that the subject of London finance should form the basis of a discussion in this House. He believed that nothing but good could come of it. At a time when municipal expenditure was becoming more and more important it was as well that they should understand the methods that had been adopted by a body which was unique in the excellence of its financial arrangements, under the guidance of some of the most eminent servants of the State. The points raised by the hon. Member had again and again been considered, not only by the council, but by this House, guided by the views of the Treasury. On all questions of loans the Treasury had something to say. The answer to the question why the Council asked power to borrow for eighteen months was apparent on the face of the schedule. That schedule gave the amounts to be authorised and stated that the estimates were required for the twelve months ending March 31st, 1907, and that an additional sum was required to carry on to September 30th. Unless the latter authority were given all the powers of the Council of capital expenditure would expire in March next before Parliament would have had the opportunity of renewing them by passing the Annual Money Act in June or July, and the Council's work would thus come to a temporary standstill. The next point raised had relation to a matter which also had Treasury sanction. The debt was not repayable until sixty years after borrowing, and the earliest payment would be in 1929. In order to prevent the piling up of a great fund of money for repaying the stockholders, it was thought well that use should be made of the accumulating fund to make short loans to various London public bodies, conditions being strictly laid down, in the clause, for repayment of the whole before the money became due to stockholders. This course might be open to the theoretical objection that the money for the stockholders was not in the Council's coffers at the particular moment, but it was there so far as London as a whole was concerned, and the borough councils and the boards of guardians were solvent. Therefore the stockholders were perfectly secure, as the money would be back again in the Council's hands before it was required for redemption. The third point raised by the hon. Member was that permission was given in certain conditions to pay interest out of capital. He was not sure this was the case in the Bill they were discussing, although he knew that the Council were anxious to be allowed to do what many companies had done in the initial stages of a great undertaking. This plan was eminently suitable for municipal operations. One of the cases in which the council realised the necessity for such a plan was the Strand-Holborn improvement. An enormous amount of money had to be borrowed for the purchase of land which in a very short time was going to be let off on long leases, and it appeared to be perfectly fair that the ratepayers in the first year or two should not be called upon to pay very large interest while waiting for the time when the property would become remunerative. Those were all the points raised by the hon. Baronet, and he was grateful to him and the hon. Member for the University of Cambridge for having brought these points forward and having afforded him an opportunity of placing these facts before the House.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry) thought they were entitled to ask for a little more information. It had been said that this Bill dealt with a question of national importance and that it dealt with the finances of a kingdom. He thought an hour's discussion of a question of such magnitude was a very short time indeed. He did not find fault with the aims and aspirations of hon. Members who represented the London County Council, but the question was: How far would the experiments that had been tried do harm, although they were intended to do good? He thought an increase of 2d. in the county council rate was considerable, having regard to the increased rateable value, and they had not received a satisfactory reply in regard to the increase of the debt. They had been told that the London County Council had the advantage of retired officials from the Treasury to guide them in questions of finance. That was perfectly true, but was it true that the council had listened to the advice which some of those gentlemen had given? He knew that the Council had received one or two warnings from the present Chairman of the Finance Committee. He thought the increase in the rates was very severe, and would have a considerable tendency in the direction of driving people out of London. [AN HON. MEMBER: Whose rates?] He was referring to the London County Council rates. He did not complain that the rates were going up on account of education, but an increase in the London County Council rate of 2d. was a heavy increase when they took into account the enormous increase in the rateable value. The accusation that the Council had made rash estimates of their expenditure had been denied, but why was it that they had asked in this Bill for more than half a million of money to make good deficiencies in estimates? He should have thought that it would have been possible to bring the estimates nearer the mark than that. With regard to the tramways, he wished to know what proportion of the expenses of street widenings was charged to the tramway account. That was a point which he thought they required some enlightenment upon. In the earlier part of the Bill it was proposed to empower the Council to construct and equip new tramways, institute certain street improvements, purchase land, and spend money for these and other purposes. Money was spent on the widening of streets where tramways were made, and he wanted to know how that money was accounted for in the tramways account. He fancied that the streets widening account of the London County Council last year amounted to something like £4,000,000, but that did not affect his argument, whatever the figure might be. He understood that the County Council professed to charge one-third of the cost of street widening to the tramways account. He asked how much of the salaries of the staff were charged to the tramways account. He was glad to hear that the County Council did not propose to continue the service of steam boats next winter. He should like to get some further information in regard to the finance of the new offices. The hon. Member for the St. Rollox division had said that the County Council were housed at present in thirty different buildings. Were they to understand that accommodation would be provided in the new premises for the whole of the staff now housed in these thirty buildings? If so, his objection to the new building would be entirely removed.

*Mr. BAKER (Finsbury, E.) said it might interest the House to know that hitherto the amount paid on the basis of one-third of the cost of street widening on account of tramways had been in respect of streets where not a single tramway car had yet been run. The amount involved on capital account was already about £100,000, and the amount paid out in advance for interest and sinking fund charges was between £10,000 and £12,000. Last year, £6,000 was charged to the tramways account as interest and sinking fund charges on capital for street widening in respect of streets where probably no car would run for the next six months. He asked the House to take note of the fact that while the tramways account was charged with the cost of laying down and maintaining the pavement between the tracks and eighteen inches on each side, the electric tramways did not involve the use of the pavement in the slightest degree. There were no horses' hoofs to wear out the paving. On the other hand they provided cars which carried seventy passengers, that being double the number carried by a motor omnibus. In doing so they removed from the actual street traffic 50 per cent. of the vehicles that would otherwise be required to carry the same number of passengers. As to the question of the contribution of the County Council to the reduction of the rates, some interesting tables had been prepared by the Council's comptroller. Hitherto the amount contributed by the profits of the County Council was no less than £293,000, and that was after paying interest and providing a sinking fund, under which the whole cost of the buildings and lines would be paid in twenty-five years, and also after providing a reserve fund of over £100,000. £607,000 had also been paid out of profits in reduction of debt. The House might be perfectly assured that the County Council finance was on the soundest basis.

Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH (Derbyshire, W.) said the points raised by his hon. friends had been most admirably met by the hon. Members who had spoken for the London County Council. He wished to have further information in regard to the item of £32,000 referred to in Section 34 of the schedule. He expressed surprise that no representative of the Treasury was present. He understood that the President of the Local Government Board was present not so much as a representative of the Government but as a proud parent looking with admiration on the healthy appetite of his offspring. In view of the fact that many of these proposals must come before the Treasury for approval it was unfortunate that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was not present. They might have been favoured with a discourse such as they were able to have the pleasure of reading in the papers that morning from the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the evils of municipal borrowing, and it would have been interesting to the House if instead of making that speech elsewhere he had reserved it for the present important debate. He should have liked to know the view of the Chancellor of the Exchequer upon this Bill. This was an important matter from the point of view of the London ratepayers, and also from the point of view of national finance, for the London County Council would have to go into the market from time to time to borrow. He hoped his hon. friend would not press the Amendment.

Mr. STRAUS (Tower Hamlets, Mile End) said he rose to correct a misapprehension that seemed to exist owing to a remark made by the hon. Member for the City. There was nothing in this Bill to enable the London County Council to pay interest out of capital, although if the Council were a public company, there was no doubt that they would have asked for this power. Railway companies were invariably allowed to pay interest out of capital during construction. Section 17 of the Bill which was the section referred to by the hon. Member for St. Pancras, and which was exectly the same as in the Council's former money Bills, empowered the Council when it issued a loan to pay out of the proceeds thereof interest on the new stock for the period prior to the receipts of the cash instalments of the loan. That extra interest was, of course, taken into consideration by those applying for the stock, and a higher price was realised. There was no doubt that the finance of the London County Council was on a perfectly sound basis; it was stronger and more secure than that of any public company and would bear the most careful and minute examination.

MR. RAWLINSON said he was absolutely satisfied with the explanation which had been given and he asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question put, and agreed to. Bill, as Amended, considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed.

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1906-7.

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £10,426,741, be granted to His Majesty to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on March 31st, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Post Office, including Telegraphs."

MR. J. WARD said that it had been urged that day that great consideration should be shown to discharged soldiers by the Postmaster-General in taking them into the employment of the Department. But he urged that the Postmaster-General before giving special facilities for taking discharged soldiers into the postal service should consider the claim of the thousands of boys who were already in the service as telegraphic messengers. These boys often remained in the Post Office until they were fourteen or fifteen years of age, when it was too late for them to equip themselves for other employment, and were then turned adrift because vacancies could not be found for them. So far as ordinary labourers were concerned, they were treated in accordance with Trade Union conditions, with the exception of the timbermen, who were paid at the rate of 8d. per hour for ten hours a day, whereas the Postmaster-General only paid them 7d. per hour. He wished to call attention to the unsatisfactory accommodation of the post office at Stoke. It was an old railway shed fitted up forty years ago for the purpose of a post office, and he believed if the right hon. the Postmaster-General only visited the place he would acknowledge that it was the worst equipped post office in the whole country. With regard to labour matters generally, he wished to thank the Postmaster-General for the consideration which he had given to all demands made by working men for fair treatment in his Department. Never before did he remember such careful attention being paid to the grievances of workmen employed by a Government Department; and he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would have many years to carry on his enlightened supervision of that Department.

MR. SILCOCK (Somersetshire, Wells) said he wished to draw attention to the distribution of lottery circulars through the Post Office. In a case recently brought to his notice, the circulars were posted in

London, and he insisted that steps should be taken to prevent the circulation of those incitements to gambling.

*MR. BRIDGEMAN said that he had had complaints from business men in a small way in country towns as to the fee of £2 charged in connection with the delivery of telegrams at their private residences after business hours. The clerks in the Post Office had to be there at any rate, and it was only a question of the messengers having to go perhaps a few hundred yards further, and it was hard that these small dealers should have to pay £2 a year for this small advantage. It would be simpler to make a small surcharge on each telegram. The hon. Member also drew attention to the burdens which rural postmen had to carry. There was at the present moment, he knew, a limit of weight, and if the burden of the postman exceeded that limit the postmaster was expected to engage an extra postman to carry whatever was in excess of the limit. He doubted very much, however, whether that order was always carried out, as he had often seen postmen overburdened. He hoped that in future steps would be taken to see that the limit of weight was never exceeded. He hoped, moreover, that the carrying out of the new rules in regard to the conveyance of agricultural produce would not entail more severe labour upon the rural postman than was absolutely necessary. Another point to which he wished to call attention was a regulation in the postal guide in regard to Inland money orders. This regulation ran, "Payment will be subject to the possession by the postmaster of sufficient funds." In the minds of some persons such a condition might give birth to a doubt as to the financial stability of the Exchequer. [Cries of "Oh."] Hon. Gentleman seemed to have a doubt about that. [AN HON. MEMBER: I should think so.] He quite agreed that there seemed to be no foundation for any such fear, but the hon. Member for Anglesey, in a speech he made at Oswestry in January, 1905, alluded to this subject, and said the regulation was evidence enough that they were getting perilously near a paper currency, which was one of the most dangerous events which could occur to any country. The hon. Member said, moreover, that the last Government had hokey-pokeyed the finance of the country, and was responsible for that condition of things. If the hon. Member for Anglesey was still of that opinion let him argue it out with the present Postmaster-General. He quoted that speech to show that such a statement as that contained in the regulation was likely to be used to create in the minds of certain people in the country a feeling of uneasiness. He should like to have the opinion of the Postmaster-General on this point.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) asked, first, for information as to the progress being made with the laying of underground telegraph wires to the centres of commerce in Scotland, and, secondly, whether it was possible to extend the trunk telephone lines north of Inverness.

MR. DALZIEL (Kircaldy Burghs) said before the debate closed he should like to refer to one or two points which had not been mentioned. He wished to recommend to the right hon. Gentleman that in cases of appointment to the highest positions in the postal service, where other qualifications were equal, he should in Scotland give the preference to Scotsmen. [AN HON. MEMBER: "And to Yorkshiremen in Yorkshire."] He quite agreed that that should be the case if the Yorkshireman had the same qualifications as the other competitor, because his local knowledge would be useful. He also complained that the postal service to and from South Africa was very unsatisfactory, inasmuch as a reply to a letter from the Colonies could not be sent off without the loss of a week. He hoped the Postmaster-General would make some representations in the proper quarters that the South African mail should arrive on a Friday, and then letters in reply could be sent back on Saturday. In that way letters would arrive on a Friday. It was altogether wrong that letters should arrive on a Saturday when it was impossible to reply to them in time to catch the outgoing boat. The difference would be entirely obviated if the steamers kept going and did not deliberately slow down and take two days more than was necessary, in order to save coal. We were living at a time when it was a scandal that steamship passengers should have their voyage deliberately delayed for a couple of days for any such purpose. If it was not for that the letters might be received on a Thursday in ample time to transmit replies by the outgoing mail. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to give some concession on this point, and that he would also make representations to Durban, which he (Mr. Dalziel) believed was responsible for a portion of the subsidy. There was one other point to which he wished to allude, namely, the question of sending telegrams on Sundays. At the present time a telegram could only be sent on Sundays from the Charing Cross or the Central Post Office. It was extremely inconvenient for any one who had to reply to a telegram on that day always to have to go to Charing Cross or the Central Office. He therefore suggested that for the public convenience a certain number of the principal offices should be kept open for a certain number of hours for the purpose of receiving and despatching telegrams.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth) asked for some information as to the surcharges levied on foreign post cards. If there was any writing on a picture post card in the place where writing would ordinarily appear the recipient would be charged twopence and sometimes threepence. He wished to know whether something could not be done to abolish this charge, which could not result in much revenue to the Government, but which caused an infinite amount of annoyance to the recipients of these cards.

*SIR W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, N.) asked the Postmaster-General whether he could make any statement as to the dismissal of telegraph workers at Mount Pleasant. Some who had been there fifteen and twenty years had had notice to terminate their engagements, and they wished to know whether they were to be offered any equivalent employment and in what position they stood with regard to their compassionate allowances. His right hon. friend had, he knew, already considered the matter, and he believed that if the right hon. Gentleman could now see his way to make a public statement it would allay some misapprehension and relieve some disappointment.

MR. E. H. LAMB (Rochester) hoped the Postmaster-General would establish a uniform boundary for the Metropolitan area telephone system. A message from Gravesend cost sixpence, while one sent from Tilbury, on the other side of the river, cost only twopence. Consequently, there was always a strong temptation for people coming up the river to land on the Essex coast rather than at Gravesend for the purpose of getting into telephonic communication with London. He suggested that instead of the anomalous area that now existed the right hon. Gentleman should give a uniform area to the Metropolitan telephones, say of some thirty-six miles, so that towns in close proximity to London could have the privileges which other towns in the immediate vicinity had. He would also like to know whether it was a rule of the Post Office that when a head postmastership became vacant that position should not be given to the assistant postmaster. Quite recently the head mastership in Rochester became vacant and the assistant postmaster was not put into the position but some other person brought in from the outside. Was that to be a rule of the postal service ?

*MR. C. E. PRICE (Edinburgh, Central) complained of the way in which these higher appointments were filled up from London, with the result that there was no promotion. Two years ago, owing to representations that were made, one of these higher appointments was filled up by its being given to an assistant with the result that there was general promotion all through the office. It had a most injurious effect on any body of men to find that all the higher offices were a close corporation and that they could never obtain any of these higher positions. He was glad that the right hon. Gentleman had taken up the question of the illustrated price lists for Canada, but at the same time he would like to call attention to the difficulty with regard to Australia. In the last few years considerable restrictions had been placed upon illustrated price lists for Australia. He also called attention to the position of sub-postmasters, who were now on a fixed scale of salary, and unfortunately their work was not recognised on public holidays. The guarantee which sub-postmasters had to give for their assistants was also a matter which required looking into. He thought, too, that as they were not civil servants they should be free from political restrictions and should be allowed to exercise the ordinary rights of citizenship.

Sir F. BANBURY presumed the item of £21,290 for electric light generating plant implied that the department made their own electric light. That was no doubt right in days gone by, but with the great increase of electric lighting companies in London would it not be cheaper to obtain the light from one of them instead of maintaining costly plant ? It was well known that electricity generated on a small scale was extremely expensive. Unless the right hon. Gentleman had a very good argument to adduce against scrapping the plant, it would be better to obtain the light from a company.

*Mr. REES (Montgomery Boroughs) asked if it were possible to give a second delivery of letters in Montgomeryshire. There were many towns of a fair size which had only one delivery a day and which were very anxious to get another. The Cambrian Railway service was not good, though he did not complain of that, as the circumstances of the railway should be considered. But where the railway service allowed of a second delivery he thought such should be granted at places like Caersws, for instance. The complaint of the hon. Member for Kirkcaldy Burghs with regard to the slowing down of steamers with the South African mails applied similarly to the mail services to and from India. If it could be possible to make an arrangement to obviate that it would be more satisfactory and would result in some saving of time, possibly at no great expense.

Mr. C. E. Price.

*Mr. W. T. WILSON (Lancashire, Westhoughton) thanked the Postmaster-General for his kindly reference to trade unions, and his announcement that the fair wages clause should be put in future contracts. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would put that clause into operation in all workshops and factories under his control, so that trade unionists would be able to accept employment therein. He also wished to ask the right hon. Gentleman if he would alter the regulations with regard to the charge made for circulars. Another question which called for consideration related to learners in post offices. In some of the provincial towns a great many learners were taken on by postmasters, and the result was they often had to wait a considerable time before being appointed as clerks.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON hoped the Committee would allow the vote to be passed to-night. In reply to the various criticisms, he would try to take them in the order they were put. First with regard to the question of the employment of ex-soldiers and ex-sailors. The hon. Member for Stoke had asked whether he was prepared to give a larger number of appointments to them. As Postmaster-General he entirely declined to take such action. The result of agreements with the Admiralty and War Office, made a few years ago, that 50 per cent. of certain appointments should be given to ex-soldiers and ex-sailors who were eligible had been that the Post Office had had to discharge a very large number of their boy messengers instead of giving them establishment appointments. That was a serious blot on the present postal system, and he should strongly resist any extension of the system, although, of course, he was in entire sympathy with the War Office point of view. He had been in communication with the War Office in regard to the matter, and hoped that by arrangement they might be able to obtain greater elasticity, so as to enable the Post Office in future to continue in their service a larger number of their boy messengers. With regard to the condition of Stoke Post Office, he was not at the present moment versed in the matter, but if he found that the post office was in the deplorable condition which the hon. member described he would certainly endeavour to do something—at all events not another ten years would be allowed to pass before something was done to remedy the evil. The hon. Gentleman had also raised a matter relating to wages which he would look into at once. If the hon. Member for the Westhoughton Division would mention any specific cases in which justice was not done to learners he would give the matter his attention. As to objectionable circulars, where they were open he had stopped them and had challenged legal action which had not been taken. But a sealed letter was a different thing. About a sealed letter there was felt to be a certain sanctity, and without an Act of Parliament he had no power to open such a letter, except with the written consent of a Secretary of State. He desired to assure the hon. Member who had raised this question that although he agreed with his views, at the present moment he was not able to carry his administrative action as far as he would like. Where the Post Office had evidence that illegal matter was being sent information was given to the police. The underground main telegraph line had now been carried to Glasgow, and the construction of the sub-lines. He had not had time to deal with the cash-on-delivery system; it was a thorny subject. His predecessor introduced a scheme with a great flourish of trumpets and had immediately to withdraw it. The last point he had to deal with was the question put by the junior Member for the City of London as to whether it would be cheaper for the Post Office to go to companies for the supply of electricity than to generate its own. The point had been carefully considered, and it was thought that it was cheaper to generate electricity. There had been no general principle laid down. Each case was considered on its merits.

MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) asked whether the increase in the number of *employes* in the Post Office was due to a general increase in business. He also called attention to the absence of a Sunday post in some places, contending that it should be made universal in country districts or done away with altogether.

*MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) expressed very great regret at the accusation of having written a letter which was a travesty of the truth, made against the secretary of Lloyd's by the Postmaster-General. Sir Henry Hozier had occupied a distinguished position in the Army, and had rendered great service to the commercial community in the position which he at present held. It was unfortunate that the right hon. Gentleman had been betrayed into making the accusation. He regretted that they had not had the advantage of hearing what the House of Commons thought on re-consideration of a certain measure recently returned to this House from the House of Lords. He was sorry that the right hon. Gentleman had been content to say "Ditto" to his predecessors in regard to the matter of wireless telegraphy. In dealing with this intensely valuable means of communication, not only to the whole commercial and maritime community, but also to the nation in times of war, all that the right hon. Gentleman could do was to say, "Let us go on as we did a few years ago." The Minister in charge of this difficult and important matter should not tie the hands of Parliament, and merely continue the arrangements he found when he entered upon office. He should ask the advice of Parliament as to the steps he should take.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: That is a question of legislation. You cannot attack the Postmaster-General with regard to a matter of legislation.

*MR. CLAUDE HAY said he was betrayed into a phrase which did not convey his meaning. He wished to say that in the whole course of the debate the right hon. Gentleman had not given a shadow of an indication of any progressive method of administration in respect to wireless telegraphy. If this matter were allowed to lapse under the existing state of things, and unless it was ruthlessly dealt with by the Postmaster-General, the country might be landed in the same mess as former Postmasters-General had landed them in connection with the telephone and telegraphs. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to say definitely what were his intentions, not in the way of legislation, but of administration on the important subject of wireless telegraphy.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that in view of the important conference to take place in the autumn he did not think it his business to lay down at present any new rules. His policy was to prevent any monopoly and to give a free hand at present to the various inventors. He had issued licences to various companies applying for them, and four stations were going to be started by the Post Office to experiment as to the system likely to be the best. He did not withdraw what he had said in reference to an absolutely unprovoked attack on his predecessor being a travesty of the truth.

*MR. MEYSEY-THOMPSON (Staffordshire, Handsworth) said he wished to make a special appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to find employment in his Department for old soldiers after they left the Army. Their training in the Army fitted them well for Post Office work. He pointed out that while the messenger boys' claim should be by no means overlooked, it must be remembered that the soldier who had spent in the service of his country some of the best years of his life, the years when it was most easy for him to establish himself in some regular employment, was apt to be thrown out of employment at an age when employers were disinclined to take him in preference to a younger man. He drew attention to the fact that if it was wanted to have the best class of men in the Army, and to do justice to those who were willing to give their lives for their country, we must not overlook their claims to considerate treatment on their re-entry into civil employment.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.) said that there was a large increase of £10,000 a year in respect of the conveyance of mails by road, and a great decrease in respect of the conveyance of the mails by rail. He asked whether it would not be possible for the Postmaster-General to improve the system of delivery of letters and telegrams in the country. If a telegram was sent from this House he sometimes reached the place to which it was sent before the telegram was delivered.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said that he would give attention to the representations of the hon. Gentleman.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE [EXPENSES].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it is expedient to authorise the charge on the Consolidated Fund of such sums as may be required to make good any liabilities incurred by the Public Trustee, or his officers, appointed under any Act of the present session to provide for the appointment of a Public Trustee, and to authorise the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the salaries or remuneration of the Public Trustee and his officers, and of other Expenses incurred by them in pursuance of such Act."—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House be now adjourned."

MR. KEIR HARDIE said he desired to appeal once more to the Home Secretary in regard to the sentence passed on Miss Billington, so that an inquiry should be made into all the facts of the case with a view to the remission of the sentence. It appeared that that morning a number of women desired to interview the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and for that purpose they approached his residence, as he understood, in a peaceable manner. The police interfered, and in consequence of the persistence of the women in going into the Chancellor of the Exchequer's house, four of them were arrested. Some of these women were sentenced to a fine of £10, or the alternative of two month's imprisonment. He thought it would be admitted that a sentence of that kind was out of all proportion to the offence committed. He invited the right hon. the Home Secretary to make an inquiry into all the facts of the case with a view to the remission of a part of the sentence. Unless something of that kind were done, the object which the magistrate probably had in view in imposing such a heavy sentence, viz., that of deterring others from pursuing a like line of conduct, would defeat itself. The feeling among people of all opinions and in every part of the country was that the sentence was unduly harsh. If the right hon. Gentleman used the power vested in him with a view to the revision and reduction of the sentence he would be doing an act of justice in itself, and one which would meet with approval from large numbers of people outside the House.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.) said that at present he was afraid that he could give no other answer than that which he had given at Question time. He had no additional information on the subject. Of course, he would give the qestion all the consideration it deserved. If the hon. Member would follow his suggestion and put down a question for Monday, he would make inquiry into all the circumstances of the case, and endeavour to answer the Question.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Will the right hon. Gentleman be able to give an answer by Monday?

MR. GLADSTONE said he would try to give an answer by Monday, but as he was not aware of the circumstances of the case at present, it was possible that he might have to ask the hon. Gentleman to postpone it.

*MR. BYLES (Salford, N.) said he wished to support the appeal of the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil. He did not approve of the conduct of the women, and he thought they were injuring their cause, but to send anyone, much more a woman, to prison for two months without that person having committed any moral offence was a discredit to English tribunals and English judicial methods. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary would see his way to inquire into the matter.

*MR. MADDISON (Burnley) said that while hon. Members held the view that the right hon. Gentleman should inquire into this case, it should be clearly stated that if the ordinary procedure had been carried out in the court for a similar offence there ought to be no difference whatever made. The hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil had spoken of these "female hooligans" as seeking an interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but he was simply playing with words. These women had declared over and over again that the Chancellor of the Exchequer "has windows," and they had deliberately urged their comrades to go to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's house. It was a deliberate plan; they had been interviewed in the Press, and again and again they had said that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had not seen the end of it. Womanhood, indeed, had really been abominably outraged by their conduct. The hon. Member for Merthyr would have served his cause very much better if at an earlier stage he had used his influence to induce these women to act in something like a decent fashion. No real working women would have disgraced themselves in the way these women had done. They were now in their proper place—a police court.

Mr. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe) said he did not associate himself in any way with the action of those women. He thought it was foolish. But all the same he thought the speech of the hon. Member for Burnley was entirely uncalled for. While he agreed that it was not an accurate description of the proceedings to say that the women were merely asking for an interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, he hoped the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary would consider the appeal made by his hon. friend the Member for Merthyr Tydvil. Two months imprisonment for such an offence was too heavy a punishment.

Mr. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle) said he sincerely trusted the Home Secretary would not be influenced by the speech of the hon. Member for Burnley. However much they might wish to deprecate—and he did deprecate them most strongly — the tactics of certain of the representatives of the women's enfranchisement movement, he ventured to say that no man would be prepared to justify the excessive punishment that had been inflicted in this particular case.

Mr. Maddison.

Mr. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross) said that the magistrate ought not to be attacked for having performed his duty. In his opinion, the fine was not excessive. If the fine was paid, these ladies would be released, and he believed that, if they promised not to repeat the offence, the fine would be paid for them.

Mr. SEDDON (Lancashire, Newton) said that the hon. Member for Burnley, in his vicious attack on those women, had been guilty of a misstatement. Two of those women were working women. Miss Kenny was a cotton operative; and the other was a school teacher. He would leave the hon. Member for Burnley to discuss with his constituents whether these women were "female hooligans."

Mr. J. WARD said he wished to join in the appeals for clemency in this case. He did not think that a severe sentence would have the desired effect of deterring these women from their ill-advised action. If the Home Secretary were to try and modify, if not to wipe out altogether, the punishment that had been passed in this case, he believed it would have much better results than the sentence that had been imposed.

Question put, and agreed to.

Adjourned at Twenty-two minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 22nd June, 1906.

COMMISSION.

The following Bills received the Royal Assent:

1. Finance.
2. Seamen's and Soldiers' False Characters.
3. Metropolitan Police (Commission).
4. Police (Superannuation).
5. Electric Lighting Provisional Order (No. 1).
6. Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2).
7. Marriages Provisional Order.
8. Great North of Scotland Railway Order Confirmation.
9. Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1).
10. Holyhead Water.
11. Norwich Union Life Insurance Society.
12. Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (Superannuation Fund).
13. Mersey Railway.
14. North Sussex Gas and Water.
15. Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways.
16. New Mills Urban District Council
17. North East Lincolnshire Water.
18. National Assurance Company of Ireland and Yorkshire Fire and Life Insurance Company.
19. South Lancashire Tramways (Extension of Time).
20. Scottish Provident Institution Buildings.
21. Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.

Lord Graves—Henry Cyril Percy Graves' claim to vote as Lord Graves at the election of representative Peers for Ireland. Committee for Privileges to meet on Monday the 2nd of July next.

Earldom of Norfolk. Committee for Privileges to meet on Monday the 2nd of July next.

Lord Chaworth (*E. Meath*) took the Oath.

[*An Asterisk* (*) *at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.*]

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5). Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6).

The same were ordered to lie upon the Table.

Standing Orders Committee. Report from, that the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the London County Council (General Powers) Bill; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill; Metropolitan Water Board Bill; ought to be dispensed with, and the Bills allowed to proceed.

Read, and agreed to.

Merthyr Tydfil Gas Bill. Reported with Amendments.

Buckhaven, Methil, and Innerleven Burgh Extension Bill [H.L.]. Presented, and read 1ª.

Huddersfield Corporation Bill. The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 17th and 29th of May last discharged, and Bill committed.

North East London Railway Bill. Committed.

London County Council (General Powers) Bill; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill; Metropolitan Water Board Bill. Moved, That the order made on the 26th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be now read 2ª; agreed to; and Bills read 2ª accordingly.

Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Nettlebed and District Commons (Preservation) Bill [H.L.]; Ritz Hotel, Limited, Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill. Read 3ª, with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

London County Council (General Powers) Bill; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill. Committed, the Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Metropolitan Water Board Bill. Committed.

London County Buildings Bill; London County Council (General Powers) Bill; London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill; Corporation of London (Blackfriars and other Bridges); London Government Schemes (London and Penge, etc.) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill [H.L.]; Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills; (viz.), E. Camperdown (chairman), L. Clinton, L. Monk Bretton, L. Sudley. (*E. Arran*), L. Leith of Fyvie; agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly. The Committee to meet on Tuesday next, at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

Poole Corporation Water Bill; London County Council (Money) Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; and referred to the examiners.

Maryport Harbour Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to.

Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [H.L.]; Hull Joint Dock Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

Southampton Gas Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to.

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill. Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. House in Committee (according to order). Bills reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3ª on Monday next.

Forfar Corporation Water Order Confirmation Bill. Read 3ª (according to order), and passed.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill, (No. 132); Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill, (No. 133); Water Provisional Order Bill, (No. 134). Brought from the Commons. Read 1ª; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners.

Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 6) Bill. House in Committee (according to order). Bills reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3ª on Monday next.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ASTRONOMER ROYAL (GREENWICH OBSERVATORY).

Report of the Astronomer Royal to the board of visitors of the Royal Observatory. Greenwich, read at the annual visitation of the Royal Observatory, 30th May 1906.

AUSTRALIA.

Report of the Royal Commission on the Navigation Bill of the Australian Commonwealth, 1904.

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3648. China (Wuhu).
No. 3649. Paraguay.
No. 3650. Austria-Hungary (Fiume).

HOUSE OF COMMONS (VENTILATION).

Report and recommendations of the Committee appointed to investigate and advise the First Commissioner of Works with regard to the improvement of the ventilation of the House of Commons.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Rules and Programme of Examinations for 1907. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

The evidence taken before the Select Committee from time to time to be printed, but no copies thereof to be delivered, except to Members of the Committee, until further order. (No. 131.)

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

The Lord Balfour discharged from serving on the Select Committee.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS BILL.

House in Committee (according to order); Bill reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

House of Lords Offices. Second Report from the Select Committee considered (according to order), and agreed to.

INDIAN RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

House in Committee (according to order); Bill reported without Amendment, and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (NO. 2) BILL.

Order of the Day for the House to be put into Committee read.

Moved, "That the House do now resolve itself into Committee."—(*Earl Beauchamp.*)

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: My Lords, before the House resolves itself into Committee I desire to say a few words upon this Bill, as circumstances over which I had no control prevented my being present to take part in the debate on the Second Reading. I do not propose to utter one jarring note after the harmonious discussion which took place upon the last stage. I concur entirely in all that was said by my noble friend the Leader of the House, and I sincerely hope that with the disappearance of the property qualification in England we shall not see the dignity or efficiency of the Bench impaired.

The property qualification was instituted many years ago for the purpose of preventing any possible corruption on the part of those appointed as magistrates. I think I am justified in saying that our system of an unpaid magistracy has worked exceedingly well for many years, and to my mind it would be a very deplorable thing if, owing to assimilating the qualification in England to that in Ireland and Scotland, the dignity of the Bench were lowered. It is, therefore, with great regret that I should see appointments to the local benches made simply as a reward for services of a political character. I have read with great interest the debate which took place in your Lordships' House a week ago, and I noticed that in the very lucid, and may I say moderate, speech of the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack the statement was made that Members of the Party to which I have the honour to belong predominate on the Bench. I do not deny that. My own experience tells me that that is the case, but I think it is generally found that the reason for that is that those who have been more specially qualified to occupy a seat on the Bench in the various districts have as a rule belonged to that Party.

I have had the honour of being His Majesty's representative in the County Down in Ireland, and until recently in the city of Belfast, and I have always endeavoured to appoint gentlemen to the Bench, regardless of what their political or religious views were, so long as they could perform satisfactorily the duties of the position. But in the County Down I have been obliged to select Protestants because I have experienced difficulty, in that Protestant county, in finding gentlemen of the opposite faith who were in every way qualified for the fulfilment of the duties. The debate which took place the other day was undoubtedly a very interesting one, but I confess I read it with a certain amount of surprise. I am one of those who consider that an ounce of practice is worth a ton of theory, and I had hoped that we should have heard from someone how justices of the peace discharge their duties in Ireland and Scotland where no property qualification is insisted upon. I had hoped that the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack would have given us his experience on that point.

Of Scotland I know very little, but I have had some experience with regard to Ireland, and in the part with which I am particularly associated there is no complaint whatever to be made of those appointed to the Bench. But I am sorry I cannot speak in the same congratulatory tone as to the south of Ireland. It is well known that in the south of Ireland, between 1892 and 1895, there were appointed a large number of magistrates solely on political grounds. I believe that will not be denied. They are now recognised as Morley's magistrates; and I do not know that they added very much to the credit of the various benches to which they were appointed. I have heard it said that some of the gentlemen appointed to benches in the south of Ireland had themselves in previous years appeared before those benches. I have also heard that so little confidence was felt in those gentlemen that the inhabitants would rather appear before the resident magistrate. There is one occurrence I should like to bring before your Lordships for which I can vouch, though I will not mention any names. The present Lord Chancellor, of whom I speak with the greatest possible respect, in the days to which I allude sent a list of names to a Lord-Lieutenant in the south of Ireland asking him to recommend them to be justices of the peace for his county. The Lord-Lieutenant asked for an interview, and explained that he could not take upon himself the responsibility of recommending those gentlemen, as many of them had themselves appeared before the magistrates.

The LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord LOREBURN): The noble Marquess is referring to the Lord Chancellor of Ireland.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: Yes, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland. The Lord-Lieutenant came upon two names and absolutely declined to recommend them. The Lord Chancellor urged that he should do so, but the Lord-Lieutenant still persisted in his refusal. "Why not recommend them?" asked the Lord Chancellor. "Because," replied the Lord-Lieutenant, "they died a fortnight ago of delirium tremens, one of them a bankrupt." I mention this to show what might be the condition of things on the Bench if appointments are made to the magistracy purely as a reward for political services. The dignity of the Bench should be maintained, and I mention this instance to show that if we do assimilate the condition of things in England to that in Ireland, we must not go to the extreme of rewarding political services by putting on the Bench gentlemen who are not qualified. I trust that Lords-Lieutenant will be very careful in submitting names to the Lord Chancellor. I do not oppose the Bill now before your Lordships, but I have brought this matter forward in the hope that nothing will be done to impair the dignity and efficiency of the Bench.

VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN: My Lords, my noble friend has referred to the appointment of magistrates, which may no doubt often have been pressed on the Lord Chancellor of the day or the Lord-Lieutenant of a county, on account of political services. But there is one point in connection with this question which does not seem to be touched by the Bill, to which I should like to call your Lordships' attention. As Member for a large city, I have often had the names of gentlemen brought before me for recommendation to the Lord Chancellor, and those recommendations have usually come, by arrangement, from both political parties. As a rule, I think, there is a feeling that appointments of this kind should be recommended, to some extent at any rate, on political grounds, I do not say in the minds of those who make them, but in the minds of those who recommend them. I think everyone must have noticed, in looking into this subject as it affects the English counties and boroughs, that there is an extraordinarily high proportion of names of persons who appear on the lists but who never do a stroke of work. They probably have been appointed for some such reason as I have alluded to.

These persons when appointed probably thought of nothing beyond the fulfilment of their desire to have what is locally considered the great honour of writing "J.P." after their name; they never thought that the honour also carried with it the fulfilment of duties. If it were possible for the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack or for Lords-Lieutenant from time to time to remove such names from the list, I think that a great reform might be achieved.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: My Lords, when the duty devolved upon me of exercising the office now discharged by the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack I repeatedly requested that an undertaking should be given by the person appointed to the magistracy to do his duty as justice of the peace, and although I have not actually removed the names of those who have not done their duty I have caused letters to be written to them from time to time pointing out that if they did not do their duty they were not fit to be magistrates and should be removed, and I have found that the hint has been invariably adopted. Undoubtedly the person appointed should undertake to perform the duties.

*LORD ASHBOURNE: My Lords, I should like to say one or two words in view of what has fallen from my noble friend Lord St. Aldwyn. I entirely concur in what he says as to the difficulty of procuring the regular attendance of magistrates on the Bench, and I have been impressed in Ireland with the fact that this is a growing difficulty in the manning of the county benches. A somewhat different system prevails in Ireland from that which obtains in England with reference to the appointment of magistrates, and I am not sure that my noble and learned friend on the Woolsack might not find it desirable to inquire of the very efficient officer who is in charge of that branch of the Lord Chancellor's duties in Ireland what are the actual details connected with the appointments there.

For a great many years we have had no such property qualification in Ireland as that which has existed in England; but the custom has been, ever since I was first appointed Lord Chancellor and for many years before, for I did not initiate it, to send to Lords-Lieutenant in Ireland forms which they would forward when they desired to invite a gentleman to join the magistracy. This form, which would be filled up in the candidate's own handwriting, would contain a statement as to his name, age, residence and property in that particular county or in other counties, and information on various other matters which would be of assistance both to the Lord-Lieutenant and to the Lord Chancellor when the time came for considering his fitness for appointment. One of the questions asked of a candidate was as to the petty sessional districts he proposed to attend, and personally I have very rarely sanctioned more than three. Another question asked was whether, if appointed to the magistracy, he proposed to give a regular attendance in the petty sessional districts named. All these questions are in the direction of getting that regular attendance which my noble friend has indicated.

My noble and learned friend Lord Halsbury has stated that he occasionally directed the attention of those who were negligent to their duties as justices of the peace, but I am afraid it is not very easy to secure compliance with such requests. My attention on one occasion was directed by Lord St. Aldwyn when Chief Secretary for Ireland to this matter, and I applied myself to ascertaining those magistrates who had gone away and those who had ceased to take any part in the work of the county, and I was thus able to remove many names that had become perfectly useless so as to obtain a more effective list. The matter is one beset with a great deal of difficulty and requires much tact and prudence.

LORD HENEAGE: I should like to ask whether the law is not perfectly clear on this point, that clerks of the peace are obliged to make out a list of magistrates who have not attended for two years, and that these magistrates are put on the non resident list.

THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH: I may state, in view of the observations of the noble and learned Lord the late Lord Chancellor for Ireland, that personally I have never appointed any magistrates without asking for the information referred to, and an undertaking that the persons whom I recommended would perform their fair share of the duties attached to the position, That undertaking has invariably been given, but I am sorry to say it has not always been carried out. With regard to the remarks of my noble friend below me, I think one word ought to be said in defence of the magistrates themselves. It is this, that many of our benches are now so crowded that there is not seating accommodation for all of them.

LORD HEMPHILL: My Lords, I have had considerable experience of the magistracy of Ireland and full opportunity of knowing how the justices generally have discharged their duties. I am not aware that there have been any complaints at all against the unpaid magistracy of Ireland, either in regard to non-attendance or insufficient attention to the discharge of their duties; and if there were any grounds for supposing that improper persons had under the existing law in Ireland been appointed to the Bench surely instances could have been adduced to your Lordships. I would remind noble Lords that the existing property qualification is not of such a nature as to prevent the abuses apprehended. If corruption, political or of any other nature, could creep into the appointment of magistrates the existing qualification would not be sufficient to prevent it. Therefore it occurs to me that no argument whatever has been advanced against the present Bill.

No qualification has been necessary in Ireland for more than a century at least, and after long experience, having lived all my life in Ireland and had the opportunity of knowing how the magistrates act in the southern counties, I can hardly call to mind any instance where abuses have been shown to exist. If we search the records of the Court of the King's Bench in Ireland it will appear that it is very rarely indeed that the decisions of the magistrates are called in question, except in occasional differences of opinion on questions of legal niceties. I think, therefore, that this is one of the cases in which, if possible, the laws of the three countries should be assimilated, and there is no fear of abuse. It is necessary that the people should have confidence in the magisterial administration of justice, and it is desirable therefore that the justices should not all be of the same way of political thinking.

THE EARL OF MEATH: The noble and learned Lord the late Lord Chancellor of Ireland has informed your Lordships that in Ireland there is a form which has to be filled up by the applicant and is sent by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant to the Lord Chancellor. That is perfectly correct, but I wish I could say that it was of much use. Unfortunately, although the applicants do sign this form and say they will give as much of their time to the actual work on the bench as is compatible with their other duties, they do not fulfil their promise. The result is, at all events in my own county, that at least one half of the magistrates do not attend at all. I always feel most reluctant to recommend anybody to the Lord Chancellor, because I know that the bench is already overcrowded. Yet at the same time there are many whose claims are brought before me who ought to be magistrates, but I cannot see my way to recommend them. I am sure I am speaking what is in the minds of a great number of Lords-Lieutenant in the populous districts both of Ireland and of England when I say that it would be conducive to the public service if some arrangement could be made by which magistrates who did not attend should automatically cease to be magistrates after a certain time.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR: My Lords, the noble Marquess who spoke first appealed to me to say something with regard to one or two points. As to the point raised by the noble Viscount, that there ought to be some means by which magistrates who do not attend should cease to be justices of the peace without any reflection upon them, I agree that this suggestion is well worthy of consideration. I am afraid, however, that I am myself disqualified from expressing any opinion on the subject, because I am one of the delinquents. I was appointed eleven years ago a magistrate for the county of Kent. I did not give any undertaking that I would attend, but the real pressure of work has prevented me from putting in one solitary appearance from that day to this. Therefore, my first duty would be to remove myself.

There ought, I think, to be an understanding, if not an undertaking, that when a magistrate accepts the position it should be with the intention of discharging the duties. It is quite correct that there is a constant correspondence on matters relating to the magistracy going on in the Lord Chancellor's office, and there are frequent requests to know whether gentlemen intend to perform their duties or are willing to be removed from the Commission of the Peace, but they never display any alacrity to be removed. With regard to the absence of qualification in Scotland and its effect, it must be remembered that in Scotland justices of the peace have fewer duties to discharge than in England; the Scottish analogy, therefore, is not absolutely to the mark. I believe the absence of qualification makes no difference there, nor would it make any difference here. It must be remembered that there is no qualification necessary now in great boroughs like Birmingham, Liverpool and Leeds. The magistrates in the boroughs are appointed without qualification; they discharge most important duties, and I have never heard that the absence of the property qualification has made any difference.

I do not think there is any real advantage in any money test. It is not a question of how much money a man has, but whether he is a man of education, of firmness of character, and one who is looked up to and respected by his neighbours. About the relations of politics and the magistracy, I wish there were no such thing, and that we heard no more about the political opinions of the magistrates than we do of the political opinions of doctors. But we all know the actual situation, and it would be uncandid if we did not admit it. There is an enormous preponderance of one political opinion on the Bench in the counties. I cannot accept the suggestion thrown out by the noble Marquess who spoke first that persons of the Conservative party are more likely to administer justice than those of the other Party. Personally I do not think there is any difference between fair-minded men on one side of politics and the other. My feeling is that this preponderance causes a sense of injustice which ought to be redressed. For my part I have no sympathy whatever with the idea of appointing as magistrates, as a reward for political services, undeserving persons. I really do wish to see the administration of justice in this country carried out in a way that will secure the affection and the respect of the people at large, and I would not be a party to placing on the Bench a man who was not an honest man and a proper person for such a position.

House in Committee (according to order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair].

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2:—

THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH suggested that the words requiring residence within seven miles should be struck out, and that a man should not be disqualified for being a justice of the peace for a county on account of residence outside the county area. What happened, especially in large industrial districts, was that the persons engaged in them who were most qualified to act as magistrates resided elsewhere. In these days of rapid locomotion seven miles was practically no distance at all; it was merely a twenty minutes journey in a motor-car. He therefore hoped, before the Third Reading stage was taken, the Local Government Board would consider a provision in this form—that a person, if otherwise qualified and having a large interest in an industrial centre, should not be disqualified as a justice of peace on account of residence outside the county area. He thought that would be a far more satisfactory provision.

LORD HERRIES said there was some danger of the county bench being swamped by the incursion of gentlemen who did not live in the county. He thought they were quite sufficiently governed by the towns already, without enabling gentlemen resident in the towns to become county magistrates and interfere in the administration of justice in the counties. He agreed that there were circumstances under which it was to the advantage of the public that gentlemen living outside the county should be appointed magistrates, but he was afraid that if the clause were passed in its present form it would open the door too widely. There would be the danger of a great many magiatrates being appointed from outside, with the result that the county magistrates would be swamped. He suggested that the clause should read—

> "A person, if otherwise qualified, may be appointed a justice of the peace for any county, notwithstanding that he does not reside in the county, if he resides within seven miles thereof and if it is for the public interest in the administration of justice that such an appointment should be made."

THE EARL OF JERSEY hoped the rather vague Amendment suggested by Lord Dartmouth would not be accepted. He was of opinion that those who sat on the local bench should be gentlemen residing close by. They were more likely to attend regularly, and to be in real touch with the neighbourhood. It rested with the Lord Chancellor and the Lord-Lieutenant whether too many magistrates were appointed, and he thought that in this matter both would be guided by what they considered best for the county.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR thought that the Amendment suggested by Lord Dartmouth was too vague, and that the clause as it stood would be more useful. The direction to the Lord Chancellor was in the Statute of Henry V., that justices of the peace henceforth to be appointed within the counties of England should be "most sufficient persons dwelling in the same county." That was the old law, and he imagined that it was as binding upon him as it was upon his predecessor in the time of Henry V. The persons to be appointed should be competent, trustworthy, and reliable individuals.

THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH said he did not move his Amendment. He only offered it as a very humble suggestion, and was sorry it had not met with any favour.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3:—

THE EARL OF DARTMOUTH moved an Amendment stipulating that solicitors, "if otherwise qualified," might be appointed. According to the clause as it stood, a person, if otherwise qualified, might be appointed, but a solicitor could apparently be appointed whether he was qualified or not. Those who lived in the counties did not want to have any cuckoos in the home nest, and it seemed to him that this suggestion of dumping down outside solicitors on local benches was not one that would meet with approval. It seemed to him to extend the principal of Free Trade in a manner that was never intended by the originators of that system, and he thought that without treading on anybody's corns in this particular instance they might ask to be allowed to adopt the principle of Protection.

Amendment moved—

> "In page 1, line 11, after the word 'solicitor' to insert the words 'if otherwise qualified.'"—(*The Earl of Dartmouth.*)

THE LORD CHANCELLOR did not understand the clause to mean that solicitors, merely because they were solicitors, could be appointed without any other qualification. He would not enter into the point as to whether or not that was a true construction, for he saw no objection to accepting the Amendment in order to make it quite clear that no such special privilege was intended to be accorded to any particular class.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY said that probably the reason why the words in the clause were used was that a solicitor was, under certain circumstances, disqualified, and it was proposed to remove that disqualification.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Remaining clause agreed to.

Bill recommitted to the Standing Committee, and to be printed as amended. (No. 135.)

ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE COMMISSION.

*LORD KINNAIRD rose to ask His Majesty's Government—1. If they can explain to the House the cause of the repeated delays in presenting the Report of the Commission on Ecclesiastical Discipline to His Majesty the King, and why it has not been presented before

Whitsuntide as promised in March in another place? 2. Would the Government endeavour to hasten this Report, as it would be of the greatest value during the Education debate? 3. Does not the prolonged delay involve the Government in considerable additional expense? 4. Could the Government also further the matter by recommending to the Commission the advisability of getting the volumes of evidence or some of them printed off and bound at once, so that there will be no printing delays after the Commission have made their report? The noble Lord said: My Lords, I must apologise for not being in my place to put the Question last week, and I am very sorry if my absence caused any of your Lordships any inconvenience. There was a long list of notices on the Paper, and I thought my Question would not be reached until after five o'clock. When I got down to the House, however, your Lordships had adjourned. I fully recognise the difficulty of this subject and that the amount of evidence given before the Commission was considerable. I feel that those who have given so much time and thought to this matter deserve our best thanks and gratitude. The fact that the Chairman of the Commission was called away on a very important inquiry connected with our Indian Empire may have caused delay; but I have put the Question down in order to allay any feeling in people's minds that there has been considerable delay in this matter; and especially at this juncture, when there is considerable anxiety with reference to the education of the country, it is desirable to have some authoritative statement as to whether the numbers of those clergy who are disobeying the law of the Church and of the land as given by the Low Church Party are correct. The Report, I think, may influence a good many people in judging how far those clergy who do not obey the law ought to be given considerable power under the Education Bill in educating the children in our elementary schools. I should be very sorry if the wording of my Question in any way led to the impression that there had been needless delay in the bringing out of the Report.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My Lords, I am very glad that the remarks of the noble Lord who has just sat down have to a certain extent removed the somewhat unpleasant impression which the wording of his Question as it stands on the Paper was calculated to cause. I certainly did feel that, evidently unintentionally, the noble Lord's Question implied distrust, not to say suspicion, of the proceedings of the Commission, which I believe to be entirely without justification. I do not think, from the information in my possession, that there has been any avoidable or unnecessary delay in the presentation of the Report. When we recollect that the noble Viscount opposite, Lord St. Aldwyn, presided over the Commission, we shall not be likely to believe that he is a man to let the grass grow under his feet. At least I have never formed that conception of his character, and I can certainly say that His Majesty's Government do not feel that there has been any undue delay in the matter.

When my noble friend opposite, Lord Kinnaird, speaks of a promise given to present the Report before Whitsuntide, he puts the matter very much more strongly than the facts justify. My right hon. friend the Prime Minister gave no promise, but expressed a hope, and all the hopes which one expresses are not to be converted into promises, for life consists very greatly of unrealised hopes. With respect to the date at which the Report will appear, I think it will be published soon enough to satisfy the noble Lord. I will not, however, venture, as a hope has been treated as a promise, to express an opinion on this subject, but will leave it to the noble Viscount opposite, who, no doubt, will speak. As to expense, the cost involved by the difference between the presentation of the Report at the beginning of June and the end of June is infinitesimal. I am told that it is nothing more than the salary of the Secretary, which may be prolonged for a week or two. The question of cost is, therefore, altogether unworthy of being considered. I believe that steps have been taken to carry out the wishes expressed in the fourth inquiry of the noble Lord. Efforts are being made to produce the evidence as quickly as possible, either with or immediately after the publication of the Report. I quite agree that this is highly desirable in a matter of this kind.

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN: My Lords perhaps, as I had the honour of presiding over this Commission, I may make a few observations in reply to the Question placed on the Paper by the noble Lord. I appreciate the sentences with which he commenced his observations, but I am bound to say that it is difficult to reconcile them with the terms of his Question. The first paragraph of the Question contains two untrue statements. In the first place, it is not true to say that any promise was given that this Report would be presented before Whitsuntide. All that was ever said was what the Prime Minister was authorised by me, on behalf of the Commission, to say in the House of Commons in February last,† that I had hopes that we might finish the consideration of our Report before Whitsuntide. In the second place, it is not true to say that there have been repeated delays in presenting the Report; not only have there been no repeated delays, but there has been no delay at all.

I do not know whether the noble Lord has ever served his country upon a Royal Commission. Perhaps his not having done so may excuse the way in which he has referred to those who have given gratuitous services in a difficult and most unpleasant duty. Personally, having myself given services of this kind on many occasions, I may say that I have never known a Commission which worked harder, with a greater desire to bring its labours to as early a termination as was consistent with their proper performance, than this Commission. We commenced our inquiry a little more than two years ago. The previous Ritual Commission took nearly five years in considering the matters referred to them. This Commission was composed of fourteen members, including three members of the Episcopal Bench, three Judges, and three Members of Parliament; and the remaining members were all men busily engaged in their respective avocations. I venture to say there was not one member on that Commission who could not be called a very busy man. In those two years we sat on something like 120 days—long sittings on each day; and of course many of us devoted a great deal of time besides that to the work of the Commission. That is what we did.

Now it is suggested that there have been delays. I repudiate that suggestion as strongly as it is possible for me to do so, consistent with language proper to be used in your Lordships' House. But that is not all. The noble Lord has insinuated in the terms of his Question that the delay has been needless, and that it has been done purposely in order to prevent the country from obtaining in the debates on the Education Bill whatever information might be gathered from the Report and evidence of this Commission. I do not know whether the noble Lord really means to make that insinuation.

*LORD KINNAIRD: I did not mean to make the insinuation.

*VISCOUNT ST. ALDWYN: I very gladly accept that denial. But such an insinuation has been made in the gutter Press, and I can only say it is an absolute lie. I can use no other term to characterise it. I do not know—and I do not very much care—what effect anything in the Report or the evidence given before the Commission may have in the debates on the Education Bill. But this I do know, speaking for myself, that nothing could be more unjust, or more illogical than to appreciate the denominational teaching generally given in Church of England schools by the misguided action of a certain number of clergymen, very few in number as compared with the total body of the clergy of the Church.

With regard to our proceedings, I am thankful to say they have been brought to a termination. Our Report is, I am afraid, rather a large volume. It has been unanimously agreed to, without reservation or dissent on the part of a single Commissioner. It has been signed by all the Commissioners but one—the Lord Chief Justice, who was unable to sign it at our meeting because he was on Circuit in Somersetshire. His signature will be obtained either to-day or to-morrow. The Report will, I believe, be presented to the Home Office on Monday for submission to His Majesty, and, of course, it will rest with the Home Office how soon it is circulated. The evidence, the index, and the rest of the Papers will be presented, I believe, in a fortnight from Monday next, and will be available—of course by the permission of the printers, who are rather difficult to deal with in these matters—as soon as may be possible to the public after that date. I hope I have said enough to show that we, the members of this Royal Commission, have done our work to the best of our ability, and that we do not deserve the gross insinuation contained in the Question of the noble Lord.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clii., 519.

RESERVE FORCES BILL.

Order of the day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3ª."—(*The Earl of Portsmouth.*)

*LORD HAVERSHAM: My Lords, before this Bill is read a third time, I wish to say a few words upon it. The proposal herein contained will go down to another place fortified by the opinion of perhaps the strongest man who could be summoned in support of it. I refer to the late Sir Robert Herbert, who was for so long Under-Secretary for the Colonies. Seven years ago I made the proposal to Sir Robert Herbert which is contained in this Bill, and suggested that he should use the machinery of the Empire League to obtain an opinion in favour of the establishment of a Reserve in the Colonies. Sir Robert Herbert took up the question with his usual eagerness, and promised me that the Committee of the Empire League should inquire into the details. I will read his letter—

> "Your suggestion as to the enrollment of men in the Colonies in the Imperial Reserve is, I think, sound and practical, and I will bring it before the Council of the Empire League. After the present South African war is over it might be possible to settle a number of time expired soldiers on the land, giving them grants on condition of their being ready for service anywhere."

I am glad that this proposal, so far as His Majesty's Government are concerned, is about to be carried out.

But this Bill does various other things which are equally useful. In the first place, it enables the Government to pay men of the Reserve in the Colonies. During my time at the War Office we were not allowed even to pay pensions outside the United Kingdom. That difficulty is now removed. The second great advantage is that we shall be enabled to enlist men direct into the Reserve. I understand that there are no less than 3,000 men in India who are now in the Reserve, but who are not under any control whatever. These men will be under the same control in the future as Reserve men at home, and will be a strong addition to the Reserve Forces of this country.

Lastly, there is a provision to give greater elasticity to the various branches of the Reserve. At present it is impossible for a man in the Cavalry Reserve to serve in the Remount Department or to join the Mounted Infantry, for this reason, that both of those services are regarded as dismounted services. It is of the greatest possible importance that these men should be so employed. Many of them are incapable any longer of serving in the Cavalry and would be of the greatest possible service in the Remount Department and in other ways. It may be said that it is a difficult thing to make a cavalryman into an infantryman and *vice versa*, but we may be sure that the authorities will not use this power unless it is of service to them. This Bill will also give us a much larger Reserve in the Colonies than we have had before. It will enable us to use our Colonial Army in a much more effective way, and it will create a greater connection between the Colonies and the mother country. Above all, the Bill will enable the Colonies in time of stress to come forward with a much larger Reserve to aid our forces in matters which may be of equal importance to them as to ourselves. I hope the Bill will go down to the other House fortified by the sanction of the Government and that they will use all their efforts to secure its passage into law this session.

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The EARL OF PORTSMOUTH): My Lords, I should like to express a few words of thanks to my noble friend for what he has said on behalf of this Bill. I think I ought also to say, in fairness, that the reason the Bill has made such satisfactory progress in your Lordships' House is not only the merit of the Bill itself, but also the fact that it is in almost all respects the same Bill as was introduced by the late Government and which your Lordships passed through all its stages. It was one of the Bills which, owing to pressure of business at the end of last session, was massacred in the House of Commons. I hope your Lordships will give the Bill a Third Reading. It will then go down to the House of Commons with the necessary Amendments that have been introduced, and I trust there is every prospect of the Bill being passed into law this Session.

On Question, Bill read 3ª, and passed. with the Amendments, and sent to the Commons.

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

LORD DENMAN: My Lords, on behalf of my noble friend who represents the Board of Trade in this House (the Earl of Granard) I beg to move that the Earl Beauchamp be added to the Select Committee. I am given to understand that owing to the regrettable absence, through indisposition, of Lord Balfour of Burleigh it has been found necessary to obtain the services of another Member.

Moved, "That the Earl Beauchamp be added to the Select Committee."—(*Lord Denman*).

On Question, Motion agreed to.

SERVIA.

LORD NEWTON: My Lords, I rise to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is prepared to make a statement with reference to the renewal of diplomatic relations with Servia. When the barbarous murder of the late King and Queen of Servia took place, and when the perpetrators of that crime were not only not punished, but actually rewarded by high positions and influential commands, Lord Lansdowne, who was at that time Foreign Minister, withdrew our representative at Belgrade, and since that period diplomatic relations between the two countries have been suspended. This action of His Majesty's Government was not only unanimously approved here, but it produced an excellent effect throughout the Continent, possibly owing to the fact that some Powers entered into a kind of ignoble competition as to which should be first to recognise the regicide Government. I think you could have no better evidence of the wisdom of the action of his Majesty's Government than that the Servian Government has been endeavouring ever since to resume diplomatic relations with this country.

The attitude of the late Government was something of this kind. They intimated that so long as the Servian Government identified itself with the regicides they preferred to have no communications with it. No demand was made that any punishment should be inflicted upon them, and I venture to think this was a wise reservation, because if we had endeavoured to insist upon punishment these men would probably have been converted into patriotic martyrs. I think it was pointed out that His Majesty's Government, naturally regarding Servia as an independent country which it was not our business to interfere with, thought it ought to recognise its own duty in the matter, and that we should not maintain any official relations with it until the Servian Government had done what was obviously fitting and right under the circumstances.

The Servian Government continued to make inquiries as to what our wishes were in the matter, and on April 11th of this year Sir Edward Grey, departing in a very slight measure from the attitude previously adopted by this country, announced in another place that until the regicide officers were removed the question of reopening diplomatic relations with Servia could not be discussed. This clearly meant the retirement of eighteen persons who were prominently associated with the crime in question, and who, I believe, had actually personally taken part in the murder. The then Servian Prime Minister submitted to the king a decree proposing to place eleven of the principal regicides on the retired list. The monarch, however, preferred rather than grant this demand to accept the resignation of the Prime Minister and his Government. Thereupon appeared on the scene another Government, and the new Prime Minister appears to have also approached the Foreign Office through intermediaries, who, I understand, were Italians.

Unofficial inquiries were made with the view of ascertaining how many retirements would satisfy our views, and somehow or other it was conveyed that if five of the regicides were retired, and retired in such a manner as to indicate clearly that the Servian Government disapproved of their crime and dissociated itself entirely from them, nominal diplomatic relations with Servia would be resumed. It was clearly intended that the Servian Government should distinctly dissociate itself from these men, and that they should be retired under such circumstances as one might reasonably expect. What actually happened was this. I have here the translation of a decree which appeared in the official Servian organ of May 30th. The decree runs as follows :—

> "We, Peter, on the proposal of our Minister of War, having heard and taken cognisance of the decision of the Council of Ministers, do resolve that"

and here follow the names of five officers—

> "are, at their own request, and on the ground of Section 22 of the law on the Army, placed in a state of peace."

The Section 22 referred to in the decree is, I understand, a provision by which officers who have rendered distinguished service to their country are allowed to retire on pensions amounting to the full salary which they are at the time receiving. The decree proceeds to state that out of consideration for their good will, by which they have placed their positions at the disposal of the Government, their pensions shall amount to their full salary.

What has actually happened, therefore, is that five of the principal members of the regicide party, so far from having been retired in what I may venture to term a somewhat ignominious manner, are allowed to retain their present salaries as full pensions and to leave the Army without a stain on their characters. I am also informed that in order that there should be no unpleasantness the King has recently appointed two members of the regicide party to the position of aide-de-camp, in which capacity they no doubt would come occasionally in communication with our representative when he goes there.

Speaking for myself, I should like to see diplomatic relations reestablished with this country. We have no quarrel with the Servian nation, and it is, so far as I am aware, just as much entitled to our respect as any other nation; but I must say I do resent a state of things which appears to have brought about a resumption of diplomatic relations under somewhat unsatisfactory circumstances. If what I have stated is correct, and I have every reason to believe that it is, then I venture to think this country has not been overwell treated in this matter. I observe that an English Minister has been appointed, but has not yet been gazetted. I venture to ask whether it would not be well, before this gentleman actually proceeds to his post, to suggest to the Servian Government that it should show rather better evidence of goodwill in this affair than it has demonstrated up to the present time.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord FITZMAURICE): My Lords, I think it is natural that my noble friend, who possesses great knowledge of the affairs of the East of Europe, should call attention to the facts connected with this incident. Undoubtedly the situation that has existed in Servia since the great crime committed in June, 1903, has been a very difficult one. It was the bounden duty of the Government of this country to mark its sense of the terrible character of the events which took place in the Palace of Belgrade. We had strict precedent for our action in suspending diplomatic relations with Servia. Personally I was mixed up many years ago in the complicated negotiations which ended the suspension of relations between this country and Mexico consequent on the death of the Emperor Maximilian, when nearly all the Great European Powers suspended relations with Mexico for a longer or a shorter time, and we were almost the last, if not the last, to renew relations. Therefore, had the Government chosen in the case of Servia, which was an infinitely graver matter than that of Mexico, we would not have been without argument to show that we could take up a still stronger attitude.

On the other hand, we have to bear in mind that if the duty of a country like ours is to make a clear assertion of the dignity of the public right of Europe—if I may use the expression—it has also to bear in mind that the suspension of diplomatic relations with any country is always a matter which bears rather hardly on our own "nationals." We ought always to be careful that, while punishing other countries, we may not possibly be inflicting considerable injury on our own subjects. As to Mexico, for example, it was forcibly borne in upon my mind, especially through communications in the House of Commons, where I at that time sat, how very serious a condition of things the suspension of diplomatic relations was for British subjects in Mexico.

The Secretary of State thought it was his first duty in the case of Servia to see that there should be some clear acknowledgment on the part of the Servian Government by some public act that the crime of June, 1903, was not to be passed over without notice. It is impossible on the other hand in a matter of this kind for a foreign Government like ours to interfere in details; but the broad fact is that, out of deference to the sole and unsupported action of this country, the Servian officers have been removed from the active list, and an assurance has been given that they will not be employed again. I believe it will be felt that by our action this country has sufficiently vindicated what we consider to be the public law affecting the case. One point has weighed with His Majesty's Government. Servia is in a very unsatisfactory condition, and the presence of a British Minister may in itself be the means of helping towards the restoration of a more satisfactory condition of affairs. The people of Servia may thus be reminded by the presence of our Minister that there is a country in Europe where liberty and order can exist together, and perhaps in time they may be able to realise and to follow our example.

THE MARQUESS OF SALISBURY: I am sure your Lordships will have heard with satisfaction the statement which has just been made by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. I do not think that any of your Lordships could have been in any doubt as to the opinion of the Government, or of any British Government, in respect to the odious crime which was committed a few years ago in Servia. But it is a matter of satisfaction that, not only in the House of Commons, but here, there should be a formal pronouncement by the Foreign Office to the effect that the present advisers of the Crown are entirely in accord with the policy which we pursued in this matter when we held their places.

It was impossible for a British Government to continue in a relationship of courtesy with a Government which had been guilty of so heinous a crime, for if we had done so it would have appeared to Servia and to the world that Great Britain condoned the crime. Accordingly we took the only step which was open to us to take. My noble friend behind me who raised the question has complained that the Servian Government have not made full reparation, that they have been not a little grudging in acknowledging the heinousness of the error they committed, and that His Majesty's present Government have been too kind in overlooking their fault. I agree with my noble friend that the behaviour of the Servian Government from the beginning to the end of this unhappy business has been in the highest degree deplorable and shocking, and it is only of a piece with their previous conduct that their reparation should have been of so hesitating and grudging a character.

I also think that my noble friend opposite, the Under-Secretary, was justified in saying that we have not only Servian interests to consider in this matter but British interests as well, and it is of the highest importance, from a British point of view, that the ordinary means of diplomatic intercourse should be resumed as soon as reasonably may be. I gather from my noble friend behind me that he entirely concurs in that view. With regard to the reparation, that is not a matter with which we need concern ourselves very greatly. There remains upon record the fact that in consequence of the action of the British Government, and that action alone, public justice in Europe has been vindicated, and the Servian Government have been compelled by our action publicly to admit that a great crime was committed, and that those who were principally responsible for that crime are no longer worthy of the confidence of their country and of the King who reigns over it. That is a great achievement upon which the Government of this country are to be congratulated.

LORD NEWTON: My Lords, I only rise for the purpose of saying that, if this question is a very difficult one, it has clearly been solved very much to the advantage of the Servian Government; and if any people have a special right to be satisfied with the arrangement arrived at it is the regicide officers themselves, who are no worse off for what has happened, but, if anything, are in a better position.

House adjourned at twenty minutes past Six o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 22*nd June*, 1906.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

COMMISSION.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went;—and, having returned;—

Mr. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to a number of Bills (See page 465.)

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH.)

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:— Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [Lords]; Truro Gas Bill [Lords]; Folkestone and District Electricity Supply Bill [Lords]; Portsmouth Water Bill [Lords]; South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords]; Dover Corporation Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways Bill [Lords]; Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Hull Joint Dock [Lords] (King's Consent signified). Read the third time and passed, with Amendments.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill. Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. Water Provisional Order Bill. As amended, considered; read the third time, and passed.

South Lincolnshire Water Bill. The Chairman of Ways and Means, in pursuance of Standing Order 83 relating to Private Bills, informed the House that, in his opinion, the South Lincolnshire Water Bill, though unopposed, ought to be treated as an opposed Bill.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP H).

Mr. MOONEY reported from the Committee on Group H of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the Clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

Great Central and Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast Railways Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed.

Bridgewater Canals Bill [Lords]. Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 7).

Mr. OSMOND WILLIAMS reported from the Committee on Group 7 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

Hampstead Garden Suburb Bill; Clacton Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Newport Harbour Commissioners Bill [Lords]; Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Bill [Lords]; Railway Clearing System (Superannuation Fund) Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Havana United Railways and Regla Warehouses Bill [Lords]. Reported, with an Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against: from Brinksway; Keighley; Stewkley; and, West Hampstead; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law: from Cambridge; Hatfield; Wokingham; and, Wrabness; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (PROVISION OF MEALS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Ayr, against; to lie upon the Table.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Petitions for alteration of Law: from Cerne; Swansea; and, Wells; to lie upon the Table.

LAND TENURE BILL.

Petition from Greenock, against; to lie upon the Table.

LAND VALUATION BILL.

Petition from Greenock against; to lie upon the Table.

LICENSING ACTS.

Petition from Llandaff, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

PHARMACY BILL.

Petition from Loughborough, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petitions for alteration: from Abercromby; Altrincham; Aylesbury (two); Bradford; Bristol; East Toxteth; Glamorganshire; Liverpool; North Ayrshire; Pontypridd; Sheffield (two); Swansea (two); and, Wolverhampton; to lie upon the Table.

AUSTRALIA.

Copy presented, of Report of the Royal Commission on the Navigation Bill of the Australian Commonwealth, 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports Annual Series, Nos. 3648 and 3649 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Rules and Programme of Examinations for 1907 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 209.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Grants to Universities — Terms of Reference to Permanent Treasury Committee.

DR. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will state what were the terms of reference to the permanent committee of five, appointed by the Treasury last March, in connection with the distribution of £100,000 per annum among the institutions of university rank.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The Committee referred to was appointed to advise the Treasury as to the distribution of the grant in aid of colleges furnishing education of a university standard, and it will be their duty to make such inquiries into the work done by the colleges and their financial resources as may be necessary to enable them to discharge this advisory function. The principles of distribution are laid down in the Treasury Minute of July 18th, 1905 [Cd. 2621].

Charge on Poor Rates of Disabled Sailors and Marines — Suggested refund by the Admiralty.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will move the Admiralty to take upon itself charges incurred by boards of guardians on account of sailors and marines who have been disabled in His Majesty's service.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I have received representations on this subject from boards of guardians, and I have communicated with the Admiralty with regard to them. The Admiralty state that the Regulations governing the award of naval pensions provide for the grant of a pension varying from 6d. to 2s. a day, with additional allowance in respect of time served as petty officer and of good conduct badges, &c., in every case in which a man's permanent incapacity can be regarded as directly attributable to the service. The Admiralty also state that men who are invalided from ordinary causes not attributable to though contracted in the service, are awarded pensions for life, or for a limited period, according to the length, nature, and character of their service. The Admiralty further state that special pensions are also awarded in certain cases, from the charitable funds of Greenwich Hospital, to seamen and marines of good character who have been discharged from His Majesty's service, and are permanently or temporarily unable to maintain themselves; but under the Regulations governing the Charity payment cannot be made for any period during which the recipient is an inmate of a workhouse or asylum or is otherwise chargeable to the rates. I have issued a circular to boards of guardians, giving the effect of the reply of the Admiralty.

Pensions of Quartermaster with rank of Major.

MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that a Royal Warrant was issued in 1903 granting quartermasters the rank of major after 15 years' service, but owing, presumably, to an oversight, no corresponding increase was made in the amount of their pensions, he will take the necessary steps to provide them with pensions corresponding with the rank at which they retire; and, in the event of such provision being made, will the cases of those quartermasters who attained the rank of major subsequent to the Royal Warrant of 1903 and have already retired, be treated on equal terms with those who may become entitled to pensions in the future.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The retired pay of quartermasters is dependent upon length of service, not rank, and the step of honorary rank given in 1903 did not, and was not intended to, affect their retired pay.

COLONIAL MARRIAGES BILL [LORDS].

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 267].

LAND TENURE BILL.

As Amended by the Standing Committee, considered.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport) said his object in moving the new clause of which he had given notice was to safeguard arrangements which he believed to be for the mutual convenience both of landlords and of tenants. It was a matter of general knowledge that at the commencement of any tenancy arrangements were made between landlord and tenant as to the ordinary repairs of the premises, etc., and if by reason of the passing of this Act these existing arrangements were upset it must work to the inconvenience of both parties and to the advantage of no one. It would be wise, therefore, to make provision that existing arrangements should stand good. The clause referred only to ordinary repairs. The arrangements varied in different parts of the country, and hence the necessity for this clause.

LORD WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY (Lincolnshire, Horncastle), in seconding the clause, insisted on the importance of including some such provision in the Bill. There were certain places in England and Scotland where the terms of the agreements as regarded the letting of lands varied very greatly, and when he raised this question upstairs several hon. Members objected to any alteration with regard to the question of repairs, as it was not the custom in their parts of the country for the tenant to contract himself to do any repairs. His own experience, however, was very different, for he well knew that before a tenant signed an agreement or lease he covenanted to do certain repairs. It was most essential that the small repairs referred to in this proposed clause should be done by the tenant, as nothing was more necessary to the proper cultivation of a farm than that the ditches should be adequately dug out and that the outfalls of drains should be properly cleaned. He had known thousands of pounds expended on the drainage of the land rendered absolutely useless owing to the fact that the tenant had not cleaned out the outfalls of the drains. In most of the agreements with which he had had to deal the tenant had undertaken the responsibility for these repairs, and in his opinion, unless they put into the Bill some such explanatory clause as that now proposed, when the measure came to be put in force enormous difficulties would arise in connection with the interpretation of Clause 7. All those matters, the repairs of roads bridges, etc., he maintained, if the tenant had covenanted to do them, he should be bound to do them. They were not to form the subject of compensation. If they formed the subject of compensation it would mean the alteration of every tenancy and lease which at present existed where the tenant had bound himself to do these small repairs. Under these circumstances there should be some such clause as had been proposed by the right hon. Member for the Newport Division of Shropshire.

New clause—

"Nothing in this Act shall affect existing arrangements between landlord and tenant as to ordinary repairs to premises, gates, fences, drains, or ditches, whether established by agreement or by the custom of the country."—(*Colonel Kenyon-Slaney.*)

Brought up and read the first time.

Colonel Kenyon-Slaney.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) said as they were anxious to meet hon. Gentlemen opposite so far as possible they would accept this clause.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause added to the Bill.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) said he hoped the hon. Member would also accept the new clause he now desired to move. It had the support of the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture, which represented all the agricultural societies of Scotland. The clause was substantially the same as that moved by the hon. Member for Kincardineshire in Committee, and the reason for its incorporation in the Bill would be much stronger in the future than it had been in the past, because under Clause 5 of this Bill a new form of compensation—compensation for disturbance—was given which might fall upon the incoming tenant. It was in the interest of agriculture that the incoming tenant should have his capital free for investment in the profitable cultivation of the farm, and if the burden of the incoming tenant was piled up by his having to pay not only the old forms of compensation which already existed but also the new forms of compensation provided under the Bill, including compensation for disturbance to the out-going tenant, it would be a burden he would be unable to bear. The owner, who was the man upon the land, was the person to settle with the outgoing tenant. The cost of arbitration would also be greatly increased under the Bill, especially by Clause 5, and those costs would also be put on the incoming tenant, who would be thus deprived of much capital which ought to be employed on the cultivation of the land. He begged to move.

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) seconded the clause on behalf of the agriculturalists of the midland counties of England. Many of his strongest agricultural supporters had again and again represented to him the loss sustained by the incoming tenant in this way: "He paid for the improvements in the rent, which was charged at the full current value, and also had to pay once for the improvements on paying the compensation of the outgoing tenant." The principle was one that ought to be embodied in the Bill.

New Clause—

"It shall not be lawful for a landlord to bind an incoming tenant to settle the claim of the outgoing tenant for compensation for improvements?—(*Mr. Munro Ferguson.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the clause be read a second time."

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping) said he quite understood the point of the hon. Member who moved this Amendment, and his desire to see the incoming tenants' capital preserved intact for the purposes of husbandry. But the hon. Member seemed to have forgotten that the incoming tenant was a free agent; that he was not obliged to come in unless he liked. Under this Bill they were simply piling up the compensation to be paid by the landlord. However much they disliked the landlord, he thought it was very hard that he should not be allowed to make such arrangements as that described by the hon. Member. Under this Bill they wished to mulct him in the cost of compensation for disturbance and every sort of compensation it was possible to conceive. He did not see that the good done to husbandry would be so great as was suggested by the hon. Member, because the tenant was just as well able to protect himself as was the landlord. He opposed the clause.

*LORD HELMSLEY (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) said the proposed clause would go a long way to prove the truth of the contention that they were going too far in the direction of giving compensation for improvements to the outgoing tenant. The wording of the Amendment showed that those who supported it thought so themselves, because, instead of going the right way to work to stop the burden on the incoming tenant, they transferred the burden, which they admitted was an unfair one, from the incoming tenant to the landlord. The most natural, cheapest, and simplest arrangement was one whereby the incoming tenant arranged to take over the unexhausted improvements from the outgoing tenant. If they substituted this clause for the existing conditions—under which it was optional for an arrangement to be made directly between the outgoing and incoming tenants—there would be a much more expensive deal to arrange in handing over a farm from one tenant to another. In the first place, instead of having a simple arbitration between the outgoing tenant and the incoming tenant, with the landlord standing apart altogether, they would have an arbitration as between the outgoing tenant and the landlord and secondly between the incoming tenant and the landlord. The two arbitrations meant double the cost and probably would be less satisfactory in the end. Why, when an arrangement had to be made for the benefit of the incoming tenant, should he not be allowed to make the best arrangement he could with the outgoing tenant? By this clause they would be adding to the burden of the outgoing tenant and the incoming tenant and the landlord and would do no good to anybody.

*CAPTAIN BALFOUR (Middlesex, Hornsey) said that from the Scottish point of view there were many provisions in this Bill with which they, as landlords, might agree, and with others disagree. There were two kinds of improvements, one of a less and one of a more permanent character which might be a benefit to the landlord by enabling him to secure a better rent for the farm when the time for letting came. When a tenant left his farm the ordinary rule was that the incoming tenant took over the manure left by the outgoing tenant. Did the hon. Member wish to prevent the incoming tenant making a bargain with the outgoing tenant with regard to the manure? If he did many leases in Scotland would be affected thereby. Then in the greater part of Scotland the incoming tenant took over the way going crop; he bought it from the outgoing tenant—a very fair arrangement. If the hon. Member excluded the taking over of the manure which the former tenant left on the farm and the taking over of the way going crop this clause was of a very far-reaching character. If he did not exclude those matters then he thought the clause was a wise one. He would like to have some clearing up of these points before proceeding further.

MR. SOARES agreed with what had been said in favour of the clause, but said there was the fact to be considered that they could not have everything in one Bill. He wished they could include a great deal more in the Bill, but time was limited, and they could not have everything they desired. Having regard to that fact, he would appeal to his hon. friend to withdraw the clause and allow the discussion on the Bill to proceed.

*MR. MUNRO FERGUSON, in deference to the wishes of his hon. friend, asked leave to withdraw the clause.

*MR. SPEAKER: Is it your pleasure that the clause be withdrawn? [OPPOSITION cries of "No."]

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) said he wanted to make a few observations on the clause. The Bill was not one to promote and encourage agriculture, but it was a Bill to take something away from the landlords. He was glad to think that every hon. Member opposite did not hold that view.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not entitled to review the whole Bill.

SIR F. BANBURY said the speech of the hon. Gentleman in introducing the Amendment showed that the best thing he could have done was to have opposed the Second Reading of the Bill.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.) said he rose to make an appeal. His hon. friends behind him did not quite realise the situation when the hon. Gentleman for Leith Burghs asked leave to withdraw the clause. The hon. Gentleman who had charge of the Bill suggested with great wisdom and perfect fairness to all concerned that the clause should be withdrawn. That was the object obviously that his hon. friends behind him had in view, and he would ask them to agree to the request to allow the withdrawal of the clause.

Motion and Clause, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) moved a new clause to provide that the Act should come into operation on January 1st, 1908. If the Bill passed in its present form the whole system of land tenure would undergo a complete change, and it was only fair that landlords should have time to review their position, and consider what steps they should take to secure their rights before the Bill came into force. Under the Bill as it stood the landlords would find that they had practically lost complete control over their own property. No arbitrator would be able to say what was reasonable or unreasonable, and there would be endless disputes. Besides that, the landlord would find that his own property might have undergone a complete change without his being able to say anything at all about it, for under Clause 7 the tenant had only to say that he wished to lay down part of his farm to permanent pasture, another part to orchard—100 acres to strawberries and 100 acres to asparagus, and so on—and however much the landlord might object to his property being transformed in this way it would be impossible for him to take any steps to prevent it. Moreover, there were landlords who took a great interest in farming and kept very good stock, some of the best herds of cattle, flocks of sheep, and pigs being owned by landlords, who had given a great impetus to the breeding of stock. Under the Bill as it stood, however, it would be impossible for any landlord in the future to take any of his land in hand to farm it for himself unless he gave compensation to the sitting tenant. It was an absolute attack on the rights of property. Then there was the question of making further provision for allotments and small holdings throughout the country. He believed many hon. Gentlemen opposite were very favourable to the idea of further increasing the number of small holdings, and providing greater facilities for allotments. Would it be unreasonable for a landlord to give notice to his tenant because he wished to divide some of his property into small holdings? It was quite a new doctrine that landlords were to have no consideration at all. He was always led to believe that Members of this House, when they considered a measure, were impartial enough to hear both sides. It must be remembered, too, that land in this country was not held entirely by large land-owners, and any attack that was made upon their rights would also be made upon the small landowners who formed a very large class. He begged to move.

LORD TURNOUR (Sussex, Horsham) seconded; he thought it was absolutely necessary that both landlords and tenants should have at least eighteen months to consider their position under the Bill. He understood that the promoters of the Bill would accept the clause and therefore he would only formally second it.

New Clause—

"This Act shall come into operation on the first day of January, one thousand nine hundred and eight."—(*Mr. Hicks-Beach.*)

Brought up, and read the first time.

Motion made, and Question proposed "That the clause be read a second time."

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY pointed out that customs differed in various parts of the country. In the part from which he came the holdings invariably dated from Lady Day to Lady Day, and even the extension suggested by his hon. friend would not give time for any such arrangements being made as would absolutely and inevitably be necessary in many cases if this Bill were passed. Supposing a tenant wished to give notice to a landlord or a landlord wished to give notice to a tenant, such notice could not be given until Lady Day next year, to take effect the following LadyDay, so that the earliest quittance would not be until Lady Day, 1908. Therefore he thought if the operation of the Bill was to be postponed so as to give time for the notice to take effect on either side it would really have to be after Lady Day, 1909, before there could be any practical advantage from the extension. His hon. friend had shown many good reasons why the extension should be made. A landlord face to face with this Bill would in many cases desire very largely to reduce the expenditure on his estate and would certainly dismiss many agricultural labourers, and some time should be given to these poor fellows to look about them. If the Bill came into operation there would be 100,000 men out of employment. Then, again, the landlord might be contemplating for some time improvements in various directions, but so as not to disturb an old tenant he put off the improvements until the tenant's death. What was he to do under this Bill? If he wanted to carry out any of his improvements he feared he would have to harden his heart, and give notice now instead of waiting until the farm in the natural course of things came into his hands. The result of the Bill was likely to be that such a holding would become empty. He strongly supported the new clause, but he wished to see it so far extended as to cover the natural condition of things. He did not know how the proposal would affect leaseholders in Scotland, but they would always meet with difficulties owing to the difference between tenure under leases and tenure under yearly agreements. From the point of view of yearly tenancies there was every reason why this extension should be made.

MR. SOARES said he was sorry that the promoters of the Bill could not accept the clause. It had been said that this Bill was an attack upon landlords, but it was nothing of the kind. The only landlords who would suffer under it were the bad landlords. When the promoters first introduced the Bill they hoped that it would come into operation immediately the Royal Assent was given to it. He wished to state that an Amendment would be moved in due course by the hon. Baronet who represented the Board of Agriculture, which would make the date January 1st, 1907, and that would be accepted.

MR. WALTER LONG hoped the hon. Member for Barnstaple would look at this question from a practical point of view. If the promoters had been content to confine the measure to amending the Agricultural Holdings Act he should have asked his hon. friend not to press his Amendment, but this was an omnibus Bill, which not only dealt with the Agricultural Holdings Act but also altered in a drastic fashion the law of tenure and the law relating to ground game. Under these circumstances was it reasonable to say that the Bill should come into operation within a few days of its passing? The hon. Memer must have made his own time table and he must have taken into account the time it would take to consider the Amendments on the Paper. As a matter of practical politics, it was impossible for this Bill to pass into law in its present form until the end of this year, and was it a reasonable proposition that a Bill should pass late in November or December and then immediately after publication expect its provisions to be known to the thousands of farmers and others who would be affected by it? He submitted that that was not a reasonable position for the hon. Member to take up. The Bill did a great many things which it was necessary that both farmers and landlords should have time to consider. He presumed that upon this question hon. Members opposite had the big landlords in their mind. He had never thought of the big landlords, because they could very well be left to take care of themselves; but there were thousands of small landlords who owned small holdings and they were just as much affected by this Bill as the big landlords. Did anybody imagine that all these small owners could make themselves acquainted with the provisions of the Bill in so short a time? Only that morning he had received a communication upon this very point which he had not had time fully to consider. He submitted to the hon. Member that he would lose nothing by putting in a date that would allow people sufficient time to make themselves acquainted with the Act, while by pressing the measure in its present form he would only be imperilling its passage into law.

MR. NUSSEY (Pontefract) thought that the Bill as a matter of draughtsmanship was so badly drafted that it would take a person of ordinary intelligence at least several months before he could understand what the Bill meant and what his hon. friend meant to achieve by it. The Bill had had the good fortune of the ballot, but it contained principles which deserved more attention than could be given to them upon a Friday afternoon. It dealt with the advisability of setting up the Irish system of dual ownership in this country. ["No."] That was a conclusion they would have to face, whether they liked it or not, and there was a clause in the Bill which did set up the principle of dual ownership. It also challenged the whole system of land tenure in this country. When such questions were dealt with in one Bill they required time and consideration before the measure was put into operation. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin had pointed out that the Bill could not come into law and receive the Royal Assent until the end of this year, and he understood that the Government were going to propose an Amendment that the Act should come into operation on the 1st of January next year. There was much that was good and also much that was harmful in the Bill, and he hoped the Amendment would be accepted, in order that the various interests might have an opportunity of adjusting themselves to the new conditions.

*COLONEL WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, W.) said he intended to support this Amendment, which was necessary under the terms of the Bill itself; for the Bill provided that where freedom of cropping was allowed the conditions should not apply in the last year of the tenancy. There were a great many landlords who had already given their tenants entire freedom of contract, and some of the tenancies would not have a whole twelve months to restore the farms unless the further date was given. Under the terms of the Bill itself they must give more than a whole agricultural year before the measure came into operation.

*Sir J. DICKSON-POYNDER (Wiltshire, Chippenham) thought there was a great deal of force in the argument advanced by his right hon. friend the Member for South Dublin. His speech was not the least in the way of obstruction, but in a practical direction. The Bill would take some time to pass through this House and another place, and consequently there would only be a very short interval between the passing and the commencement of the Act. He thought the acceptance of the Amendment would greatly facilitate the passage of the Bill. He did not agree with the apprehensions which had been expressed in connection with this measure, because he believed that there was much good in it, although there were some matters susceptible of amendment. When one realised how slowly the practical working of a Bill of this kind operated in country districts he thought it was of the greatest possible importance that due notice should be given to both landlords and tenants and to all concerned, in order that they might be made fully conversant with its provisions before it came into operation. The proposal was reasonable, and he urged his hon. friend to accept it.

Mr. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) said he agreed with the hon. Member for Pontefract that it would take a great many months to understand the Bill. He had done his best to understand it in the time at his disposal, but he confessed he had not been able to make head or tail of a good many of its provisions. If passed in its present form there would be such a crop of litigation as would absolutely surprise the promoters of the Bill.

Mr. SOARES (interrupting) said he was prepared to accept the Amendment.

Question put, and agreed to.

Lord WILLOUGHBY de ERESBY moved to amend the new clause by substituting April 7th for January 1st. In most districts in England the landlord and tenant would not have sufficient time to make the new arrangements in connection with agreements which might be necessitated by the passing of the Bill if the date now in the clause were retained. He hoped the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill would see the reasonableness of this proposal. If changes had to be made in regard to future agreements it was only right that those concerned should have fair warning, and it would only be possible to give such warning if sufficient time were allowed.

*Mr. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash), in seconding the Amendment, associated himself with the noble Lord in the appeal for an extension of time in the interests of tenants who would wish to consider their new position, as well as in the interests of landlords in the North of England where tenancies dated up to Lady Day. It was obvious that the granting of the time asked for would be of extreme importance from the point of view of the Bill itself. All that was asked was that the Bill should be made practical. He supposed that the hon. Gentleman wished to make it practical and useful, and he appealed to him in the interest of both landlords and tenants to make the proposed alteration in the date.

Amendment proposed to the proposed clause—

"To leave out the words 'first day of January,' and insert the words 'seventh day o April'—(*Lord Willoughby de Eresby*)—instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. SOARES said he had made a concession of a rather important nature, but if hon. Members opposite were going to use any concession which might be made as a step towards further concessions he certainly would not be inclined to make any. He had done his best to comply with the wishes of hon. Gentlemen opposite, and he did not think he should be asked to accept this Amendment.

Mr. WALTER LONG admitted that the hon. Gentleman had done his best to meet the objections to the Bill. Reference had been made to difficulty in connection with the legal interpretation to be placed on the clauses. He was no lawyer, but he had taken the trouble to obtain the opinion of lawyers, and he was certain that if the measure passed through the House in anything like its present form, subject only to those Amendments which were on the paper and seemed likely to be carried, it would go quite as far as his hon. friend behind him had stated, and in some cases further. Although the Bill dealt drastically with agricultural holdings, ripped up the law with regard to land tenure, and amended a number of Acts of Parliament, the Committee upstairs had not the advantage for five minutes of the presence of an English law officer of the Crown. Demands were made by his hon. friend and by hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House for a definite expression of opinion by a responsible law officer of the Crown as to the effect of the clauses. The only law officer present was the Solicitor-General for Scotland, who rendered most valuable service to the Committee, for which he tendered to the hon. and learned Gentleman his warmest thanks. But the hon. and learned Gentleman said he would not express definite opinions on questions of English law and practice. That was the position in which the Committee found themselves. If this Bill passed in its present form it would lead to an enormous amount of friction and difficulty, and there would be considerable labour in interpreting the real meaning of the clauses. He thought the date proposed in the Amendment was better fitted to meet the requirements of the case than that mentioned in the clause. This was not a foolish proposal. The Amendment was one of substance, and therefore he could not ask his hon. friend to withdraw it. If the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill accepted the Amendment no one would be injured in any way. He did not regard the 1st of January as an effective date, but the 7th of April was.

*Mr. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby) hoped that those who were in charge of the Bill would think very carefully before accepting the Amendment. It was moved on the plea that landlords and tenants should have time to rearrange their tenancies. He noticed that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin in his support of a later date merely asked for time to consider and understand the Act, and made no mention of any desire that land lords might be enabled to give notice to their tenants. That was rather a remarkable omission.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The hon. Gentleman should not make suggestions of that kind. I dealt with some of the most important reasons for this proposal, and I said frankly that when I was speaking I had not realised that the original date would not cover this particular case.

*Mr. LEIF JONES replied that that was exactly what he said. He suggested that there should not be an exception made in favour of Michaelmas tenancies, as was made in the clause as it now stood. On the other hand, the 7th April was not much use to them in Cumberland and Westmoreland where the tenancies changed frequently on the 1st or 12th of May.

Colonel LOCKWOOD expressed the hope that the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill would accept the Amendment. The hon. Member must not be surprised if small landowners like himself and some of his hon. friends who felt they were going to be attacked by the Bill, should be determined to obtain every possible advantage they could by way of Amendment. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin had said that it was the small landlords who were going to be principally attacked by the Bill. He would take every means in his power to have every clause thoroughly discussed. Was it surprising that the small landlords, a class in which he included himself, should feel the greatest anxiety about a Bill which, as the hon. Member for Pontefract had said, would practically establish fixity of tenure, fair rents, and dual ownership, and desire that its operations should be delayed as long as possible? For himself, he wanted to have time to think it over, to make such pecuniary arrangements as were left possible for him, and to come to some terms with his tenants. He frankly admitted that with these ideas in his mind it was but natural that he should look for every means for escape. He thought that they had every right to ask the hon. Gentleman to accept the small addition of time proposed by his hon. friend.

*MR. CAWLEY (Lancashire, Prestwich) said that most of the tenants in this country terminated their tenancies on Lady Day. The Bill was of an extremely important character. Nobody could deny that it interfered with vested interests, and created new interests. He thought that a Bill that created new interests in land, which took something from the landlords and gave it to the tenants, was not a Bill which would do much good to the general community. They were all in favour of a scheme which would employ more people on the land. This Bill would not put one more man on the land, nor even lead to the employment of an additional agricultural labourer. It certainly would be of some benefit to the tenant farmers, because it would give them a vested interest in property which they did not at present own. He was in favour of many parts of the Bill, but, as he did not wish to see it rushed through the House without sufficient consideration, he hoped the Amendment would be accepted.

MR. J. F. MASON (Windsor) said it could not for one moment be contended that landlords could be expected to continue to give the same conditions to the tenants under this Bill as they gave now. It could not be expected that landlords were going to accept the responsibilities and liabilities that would be cast upon them, without increasing their rents and making new conditions with their tenants. In many cases the landlords would farm the land themselves, or else throw it out of cultivation altogether. He knew of a case in his own county, where a tenant farmer had bought two small farms, of 200 acres in all. That represented the whole savings of that man's lifetime. What was the position in which this Bill would place that man? It would make it possible for the tenant of one of his farms to bring him into the bankruptcy court, and probably the only man who would be able to buy the land would be a neighbouring big landlord. The prolongation of time asked for by the Amendment was necessary in order to enable the small landlords to safeguard their own interests, and he believed it would also be beneficial to the tenants as well.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON thought the arguments to which they had just listened ought to have been addressed when Clause 5 was under discussion. At the same time he thought that the request for time to understand the Bill was a reasonable one.

MR. ABEL SMITH (Hertfordshire Hertford) said there were good grounds why the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill should accept the Amendment. Whether owners or occupiers they ought to have time for the consideration of their position. The only object of his hon. friend in moving his Amendment was that the concession proposed to be made in the Bill would make it fair all round, that tenancies which came to an end at Michaelmas and Lady Day should be placed on exactly the same footing. Something had been said in regard to the legal considerations in relation to this Bill. That recalled to his mind the fact that when the Bill was under review in the Grand Committee they had not the services of an English law officer. He recognised the good service rendered to the Committee by the hon. and learned Solicitor-General for Scotland. However, the hon. and learned Gentleman very candidly acknowledged that he was not capable, and could not be expected to give advice to the Committee on subjects of English law. He strongly protested against the absence of the law officers of the Crown during the discussion of a Bill which raised many difficult legal points. What he wanted to know was, whether tenancies in regard to which notices had been given before this Bill came into operation, but which would expire after the date at which it came into operation, came within its provisions. ["Yes."] That was a most important point, and although he was obliged to his hon. friends for their advice he thought this question ought to be decided upon the authority of the Government and of the law officers of the Crown. Numerous cases might arise in which either the landlord or tenant might give notice to quit or to determine the Lady Day tenancy. That day was, as had already been pointed out, the 25th of March, 1907, and the notice would not expire till the corresponding day in 1908, and he thought they were entitled to know whether in a case like that the complicated provisions of this Bill would apply.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.) said there seemed to be a general agreement that something ought to be done in regard to the date at which this Bill should come into operation, and his hon. friend who was in charge of the Bill agreed that there must be an extension of time. That proposal had not met with entire approval, and it was suggested that there should be a later date. He thought it would be better to put an end to this discussion, and defer the debate on this matter until they came to Clause 11, upon which he had an Amendment to the effect that the Bill should not come into operation until the 1st of January, 1907. Hon. Gentlemen opposite seemed to take a pessimistic view of the Bill as it affected landlord and tenant, and therefore it would be much better if they postponed the discussion of the date at which it should come into operation till the time when the provisions of it had been settled, and when they knew what alteration it made in the law.

MR. LAMBTON (Durham, S.E.) argued that it was only reasonable that the time before which the Bill came into operation should be prolonged so that landlords might give notice to their tenants in regard to their intentions as to the continuance of the tenancy. In his view this was an utterly impossible and unreasonable Bill. If contracts were upset by the Bill, surely it was entirely right and just that the parties should have an opportunity of making other arrangements than those which now existed. All the benefits of the Bill would be given to the incoming tenant and not to the outgoing tenant; for his part he thought the landlord stood *in loco parentis* to all his tenants but especially to the outgoing tenant. All existing arrangements were upset by the Bill, which was loosely drawn and impossible of application. It was most desirable therefore that this discussion as to the postponement of the date upon which the Bill should come into operation should not be concluded until they had received some assurance which was in accordance with common sense.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) inquired whether, if this new clause were withdrawn, it would be in order to bring forward subsequently a proposal to the same effect.

*MR. SPEAKER said that if the new clause proposing that the Bill should come into operation on the 1st of January, 1908, was negatived then the same date could not at a later period be inserted in the Bill, because the House would have pronounced its opinion upon it and would have negatived that date. If the clause were withdrawn the question of the date could be raised again at a later period of the Bill.

MR. WALTER LONG said he was under the impression that the clause had been read a second time and that they were proceeding to amend it.

*MR. SPEAKER said he still had to put the question to the House that the clause should be added to the Bill, and if that were negatived then it would be possible to raise the same question but not the same date again.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY: And another date can be raised by Amendment?

*MR. SPEAKER: Yes; any other day can be proposed.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington) expressed himself in favour of the landlords of the country being given an opportunity to give notice to their tenants before the Bill came into operation. As a matter of fact a considerable number of landlords had given notice to their tenants in consequence of the introduction of the Bill, and it seemed to him that others should have the opportunity of doing so. [MINISTERIAL Laughter.] Hon. Members might laugh, but he could prove that that was a reasonable contention. Under the Bill dual ownership would be introduced, and, as had been stated, two vested interests created. If that was going to be the case was it not reasonable that the landlord should have an opportunity of giving notice to his tenant before the Bill came into operation?

*MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) wished to make a practical suggestion. It seemed to him fair to say that, when Parliament was imposing terms which were not in operation when the rent and other terms of tenancy were settled, each party should have an opportunity of considering whether he desired the tenancy to continue on those new terms. Therefore, instead of trying to fix a date, why should they not make a provision that the Bill should not apply to any existing tenancy till the earliest date at which it might have been determined by a notice given after the passing of the Act?

MR. GUEST (Cardiff District) said he was just about to make the same suggestion as the last speaker. It seemed to him to be most unfair that one landlord should be able to determine his tenancies before January 1st, 1908. and others should not have the same opportunity of doing so. He thought that all parties should have an opportunity of regulating their position before the Bill came into operation.

*MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) hoped the suggestion made by the hon. Gentleman who represented the Board of Agriculture to postpone this Question until they got to Clause 11 would not be accepted. If the promoters of the Bill wished to get it through they would do well not to accept it themselves, because, so far as he was personally concerned, the opposition to many clauses of the Bill depended largely upon the time when it came into operation. The hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill had charged them with using one concession — and he admitted it was a great concession —in order to ask for another. But before the hon. Gentleman made that concession a proposal to change the date on which the Bill should come into operation was made by the hon. Member for Pontefract, and he gathered that that proposal would have covered Candlemas entries. He desired to add his voice to what other speakers had insisted on, namely, the importance of treating all landlords alike. It was perfectly ridiculous to say that only sufficient time should be given to enable the agricultural community to understand the Bill. There was every reason why landlords should have time to reconsider their arrangements with their tenants, and, if necessary—as in some cases it would be—to terminate them altogether. The case of the very small landlord had been mentioned. A man who owned two farms might live on one and let the other. It would be impossible for him to risk the huge outlay of capital which he might be called to find if the Bill were passed. He would—as had been suggested—have to go straight into bankruptcy or get rid of his tenants. It would only be fair and common justice that he should have an opportunity of terminating the tenancy. He did not think that the tenant farmer was going to get the slightest advantage from the Bill. If he were allowed to have this vested interest of course he would get an advantage, but rather than risk the disadvantage of this vested interest the landowner would get rid of the tenant altogether, and that would be disastrous to the whole agricultural community. There were many estates where the sporting rights were of far more monetary value to the landowner than the agricultural rent. Did they think the landowner was going to risk the loss of sporting rights of such value by keeping agricultural tenants under a Bill of this kind? Of course not. He would get rid of them, and it would be a great disaster to all concerned. Then there was the question of the great variety of custom with regard to covenants in leases and agreements in different parts of the country. In the part he came from, there was a material difference in the rents of farms according to the distance from the main road, for the simple reason that a tenant farmer covenanted under present arrangements to repair the roads.

*MR. SPEAKER: That question has nothing to do with the alteration of the date.

*MR. COURTHOPE (continuing) said that the argument in favour of January 1, 1908, advanced by the promoters was that there was no reason for giving time to landlords to review their tenancies. He was trying to show cause why in cases of tenancies which expired on Lady Day time should be given. He could not enlarge on the subject, but it was an important point. Under the Bill the tenant would get compensation from the landlord for many repairs which he now did at his own cost. That was a reason for allowing time for the reconsideration of the arrangements between landlord and tenant. He held a lease in his hand in which there were covenants as to repairs which would be upset by this Bill. That also was a reason for giving time—not to some—but to all landlords to re-arrange their tenancies before the Act came into operation. He hoped the promoters of the Bill would see their way to accept either the Amendment now before the House or some other Amendments which had been suggested, and would have a similar effect. If they did not, personally he would have to take up an attitude of uncompromising hostility to the Bill. [Laughter.] He did not see what there was for hon. Members to laugh at, because the chance of passing the Bill depended a great deal on the attitude he and his friends might take up in regard to it.

*SIR HENRY AUBREY FLETCHER (Sussex, Lewes) said he wished to join in the appeal which had been made by his hon. friend for an opinion from the law officers of the Crown. Although the law officers for England were not present he saw before him the Solicitor-General for Scotland and the Attorney-General for Ireland, one or the other of whom might be able to help landowners in their difficulties. At present they were in a rather perplexed state as to how they might be affected if this Bill became law, and therefore he made this appeal. He would also put before the House the difficulties landed proprietors who owned property in various counties were in. He would take only England; the Bill had nothing to do with Scotland. The tenancies in England varied greatly, and what had been said did not help them out of their difficulty. In the county of Sussex all his tenants on a large property had two years agreements. How would they be affected, and how would he be affected as landlord, in regard to those agreements so far as the date of this Bill was concerned: would the last agreements hold good, although they might not expire until after the Bill had come into force? What, again, as to other counties, where the dates were different, some Lady Day, and some Michaelmas, etc.? There was Cumberland, for instance, and the adjoining county of Westmoreland, alluded to by the hon. Member for Appleby, where the dates differed again. He thought, therefore, the House was justified, and they on that side especially, in pressing on one of the law officers the desirability of saying how they stood.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. URE, Linlithgowshire) said it was impossible for him to give a categorical reply to the plaintive appeal which had been made—and very properly made—for advice, but generally speaking, he thought he might say that if a notice was given to terminate a tenancy before the Bill came into force, but the notice took effect after the Bill came into force, he thought the Bill would take effect in so far as it amended the existing law. In other words so far as the Bill effected a change in the existing law it would apply to present agreements, but so far as it made a change in the law of landlord and tenant it would not apply.

Mr. SOARES rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 249; Noes, 74. (Division List No. 144.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, NE.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight

Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Boland, John
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galw'y
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Erskine, Davied C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r
Hart-Davies, T.
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe
Higham, John Sharp
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morse, L L.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N (Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
ODoherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Phillipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Sir G Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Torrance, A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips

Ure, Alexander
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (StokeuponTrent
Wason, Eugene (Clackmanon)
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton
Winfrey, R.
Woodhouse,SirJT(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Soares and Mr. Arthur Dewar.

NOES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hn.SirH.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury,Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H. T.(Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hn.VictorC.W.
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,CharlesCurtis(Antrim,S.
Craig,Captain James(Down,E)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dixon-Hartland,SirFred Dixon
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Gov'n
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks,East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hardy,Laurence(KentAshfo'd
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BurySEdm'ds
Hill,SirClement (Shrewsbury)
Hill,HenryStaveley(Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Kennaway,Rt.Hn.SirJohn H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hn.Col.W.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants,Fareham
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt-Col.A.R.
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Nicholson,Wm.G.(Petersfield)
O'Neill, Hon. Robert (Torrens
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Ramnant, James Farquharson
Roberts,S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Sandys,Lieut-Col.Thos.Myles
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford,East)
Starkey, John R.
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E, (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York,E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put accordingly, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

The House divided:—Ayes, 242; Noes, 91. (Division List No. 145.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury,E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets, S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner,SirJohnT.(Cheshire)
Bryce,Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce,J.A.(Inverness Burghs)
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, WilliamPollard
Cameron, Robert
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Channing, Francis Allston
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, SirWmJ.(S.Pancras,W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C.H.(Sussex,E.Grins'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cowan, W. H.
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay (G'lw'y
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fullerton, Hugh

Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r
Hart-Davies, T.
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Hayedn, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, W. (BatemanSomers't, N.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Maddison, Frederick
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncas'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Pease, J. A (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J, D.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton-und.-Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Shaw, Rt. Hn. Thos. T (Hawick B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Spicer, Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Thompson, J. W. H (Somerset, E.
Torrance, A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah G.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Soares and Mr. Arthur Dewar.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Agnew, George William
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beale, W. P.
Beck, A. Cecil
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cleland, J. W.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry

Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
M'Micking, Major G.
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Partington, Oswald
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renton, Major Leslie
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Starkey, John R.
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Lord Willoughby de Eresby and Viscount Helmsley.

*MR. CAVE said he now moved the Amendment to which he had previously alluded. The Bill proposed to import into existing agreements conditions entirely new, which no one conceived would be imported into them when the tenancy was accepted, the rent fixed, and the terms of the tenancy agreed to. The effect of his Amendment would be to give a chance to the parties to those agreements to consider whether they would continue under the new conditions. The effect of the Bill was to throw upon the landlord the possibility of very heavy charges for new buildings to the erection of which he did not consent; for new drainage, wells, water courses and so on, for all of which he might be called upon sooner or later to pay. The landlord might well say that he did not contemplate these charges being made when he let his land; that he could not afford to pay them and that he would rather not let the land at all. Again, an agreement of tenancy often contained clauses as to cropping the land and other matters, which were duly considered when the agreements were entered into. Parliament was going to say by this Bill that they were to be struck out. The same thing also occurred with regard to the question of game. The landlord might have accepted a lower rent on the ground that damage would be caused by game, and now the Bill proposed that he should be responsible for the damage but should continue to receive the same rent. Under all these circumstances it was only justice that the landlord should be allowed to say whether or not he would determine the tenancy before the Act came into operation. He begged to move.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY said he seconded the Amendment for which a very good precedent could be found in the Ground Game Act—a precedent which the hon. Member would do well to follow. In that Act a saving clause was inserted in almost the very words moved by his hon. friend. He suggested that it was only reasonable that the hon. Member should put a safeguard of this kind into the Bill and that he could not do better, if he refused the words of his hon. friend, than look up Clause 5 of the Ground Game Act.

Amendment proposed to the proposed clause—

"At the end to add the words 'Provided that it shall not apply to any existing tenancy until the day next after the earliest day on which such tenancy might have been determined by notice given after the passing of this Act.'"—(*Mr. Cave.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

MR. SOARES said he hoped he would not be considered discourteous if he said he declined to consider the merits of this Amendment—for this reason. He had already accepted the Amendment asked for by the right hon. Member who led the Opposition in this matter.

After that Amendment had been accepted it was discussed by the right hon. Gentleman's followers, and the discussion had been prolonged by the moving of further Amendments on the same point.

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY said he sympathised with the difficult position in which the hon. Member found himself. He was certain that when the hon. Member made the concession he made it frankly and in a friendly spirit. But the hon. Gentleman did not quite realise that the extension for which they now asked was not a frivolous, but a necessary augmentation in order to get into the Bill the meaning which the hon Member had in his mind when he made the concession.

Mr. SOARES said he made it with the object of enabling everybody to accept the Bill.

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY agreed that his hon. friend had made a *bona fide* concession to extend the time, but the augmentation they now asked for was to make real and effective that which they understood his hon. friend was willing to concede. It was well to remember, and it was a curious and significant fact, that on every occasion in the legislative history of this country when there had been an Act altering as this Bill did things which had stood for many years it was the almost invariable practice to insert a saving clause of this description to cover existing agreements. The object of the Amendment was not obstructive, and all he desired to point out was that such a clause had been inserted in all Bills of this character.

Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanark, N. W.) said the hon. Member in charge of the Bill quite misunderstood their ground for the action they were taking up in asking for this concession. The previous Amendment was destined to give time to the landlords and the tenants to arrive at a proper understanding of the Bill, but the object of the Amendment now before the House was to give time to the landlords and the tenants to make new arrangements in regard to their tenure. The Bill made a very great change in the land tenure of the country, and he could not see why the hon. Gentleman could not accept the Amendment.

*Mr. GEORGE FABER (York) thought that both precedent and justice required that the Amendment should be accepted. The precedents were too many to cite and he felt confident that hon. Members opposite would see the justice of the Amendment. Unless it was accepted the effect would be that they would have read into many existing contracts a Bill which would introduce into land tenure innovations of a very alarming nature. All contracts and agreements made up to the present time were naturally made in ignorance of any legislation being passed of the kind now proposed. Was it reasonable to suppose that the landlord and tenant who had entered into arrangements agreeable to both of them should have read into those arrangements legislation of the character now proposed? The Bill would affect more injuriously the smaller landlords than the larger because, as had been said, and with a certain show of reason, the larger landlords could look after themselves, but the smaller landlords did not, unfortunately, fall into that category. Clause 4 was going to do away with the system of cropping altogether. That in itself was a revolution, and would be very injurious to landlords who depended largely upon the cropping system for the proper cultivation of the land. Clause 7 might be fatal to the small landlord, because it proposed that improvements of the most material and vital kind might be set afoot without the consent of the landlord ever having been obtained. Unless they wiped the slate clean and allowed landlords to enter upon fresh arrangements after having seen what was in the four corners of the Bill they would be doing an injustice to many landlords. No one, he was sure, wished to do that. If they were to have this legislation, let them have it with their eyes open and put no one in an unfair position. They would do their best to carry out the law of the land if the Bill became an Act of Parliament, but they should allow the opportunity of terminating existing arrangements before the Bill was brought into operation.

Mr. COCHRANE (Ayrshire, N.) said one part of the United Kingdom had been completely left out of view by the hon. Members who framed this Bill. Whether they had an adequate knowledge of agriculture carried on in the South of England, he had no means of judging; but the Bill certainly aimed a deadly blow at the Scottish system of agriculture. The system in Scotland was one of nineteen-year leases, for which period a rotation of crops suitable to the different districts was laid down. Under that system of rotation of crops the cultivation of the soil in Scotland and the produce would bear comparison with any part of the United Kingdom, not because they were favoured with a more suitable climate, but simply because more science had been followed and greater attention paid in the North than in the South. The Bill gave no consideration to the fact that in Scotland the leases were for nineteen years, and a lease might have been entered into quite recently. During the course of the proceedings in Committee the Solicitor-General for Scotland delivered himself of the saying that the more he looked at this Bill from the Scottish point of view the less he liked it. When the hon. and learned Gentleman gave expression to such a strong view as that they might be assured that the case of Scotland had not been adequately considered by the framers of the Bill. It seemed that under this Bill all sorts of covenants to a lease could be swept away. Anything more unjust and unreasonable it was impossible to bring before the House. It was very little likely to do any real good to the tenants; and what would be the position of the landlord who owned a property constantly falling in value?

Mr. BILLSON (Staffordshire, N.W.): Is this in order?

*__Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER__ ruled that the hon. Gentleman was in order.

Mr. COCHRANE said that except for his hon. friend who made a speech from the Scottish point of view he was the only Scottish Member who had had an opportunity of saying anything. All the time that he had been in the House he had never known such constant interruptions on the part of hon. Members. He maintained it was most necessary that in Scotland existing tenancies and arrangements which had been so satisfactory in the past should be excluded from the purview of the Bill. There was a precedent in the Bill introduced by the Secretary to the Board of Agriculture, and supported by the hon. and learned Solicitor-General for Scotland. He preferred to pin his faith to the carefully drawn measure promoted by the Department, and supported by the hon. and learned Gentleman, than to a measure proposed by a private Member who knew nothing of the conditions in Scotland.

Mr. CHANNING said the Party to which the hon. Member for North Ayrshire belonged passed in 1900 an Act dealing with agricultural holdings for Scotland as well as England, and they fixed that the Act should come into operation on January 1st, 1901, without making exceptions.

Sir E. CARSON (Dublin University) said the Act to which the hon. Gentleman referred did not break contracts. He desired to ask a question to which perhaps the hon. and learned Gentleman the Solicitor-General for Scotland would give an answer. This Amendment was to give an opportunity of reconsidering the question of contracts entered into between landlord and tenant. Looking through the Bill he discovered one very curious result, namely, that they were going to apply to England a Scottish agricultural Act, and to Scotland an English agricultural Act. If the hon. and learned Gentlemen would look at the short title he would see that they were all made one Act, presumably, so far as this Bill went. It said—

> "This Act may be cited as the Agricultural Holdings and Ground Game Act, 1906, and may be cited with the Agricultural Holdings (England) Acts, 1883 to 1900, and the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Acts, 1883 to 1900."

What he desired to ask the hon. and learned Gentleman to consider was what effect it would have upon contracts.

Mr. URE said that in a case in which notice was given to terminate a tenancy it was plain that whilst some of the clauses in this Bill would apply, others would not apply. He would give a general answer which he thought would be satisfactory to the House. It was this: when this Bill passed it was the intention of the Government to embody most of these clauses in a Bill which had been introduced consolidating and amending the Agricultural Holdings Acts. That would follow a very convenient precedent set by the late Government in regard to another matter. Some very minor and secondary alterations would be made. The hon. Member for North Ayrshire was quite right in saying that this Bill as originally drafted was certainly not applicable in its terms to Scotland, and the remark of his to which attention had been called passed his lips at a very early stage of the proceedings in Grand Committee. A number of Amendments were subsequently introduced which modified the Bill for Scotland, so that the remark he made early in the proceedings could scarcely be considered as his final view of the matter.

Mr. WALTER LONG said the speech they had just listened to must surely have convinced the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill that the only common-sense course was to accept the Amendment. If ever a Motion for the adjournment of the debate was justified it would be justified on this occasion in order to draw attention to the extraordinary position in which they found themselves. They had just heard a statement from the Solicitor-General for Scotland that in his view the Bill as originally in the Committee would have produced hopeless confusion in Scotland. Under the hon. and learned Gentleman's guidance that result had been avoided. But in what position were they who represented other parts? He had always envied the greater advantages which Scotland enjoyed under many of our laws and customs. In the case of the present Bill Scottish interests had had the inestimable advantage throughout the proceedings of the assistance of the extremely able gentleman who had just spoken. From the beginning of the proceedings they had never been favoured upstairs or downstairs by the presence of either of the English law officers. The Bill made important proposals. It made direct changes and amendments in the law, and they were now debating an Amendment which would safeguard all interests and put all on the same footing; and surely every word that fell from the Solicitor-General for Scotland justified them in pressing the Amendment. The hon. Member in charge of the Bill had accepted the Amendment postponing the operation of the Act, and he (Mr. Long) was not alive for the moment to the real effect of the change. In the light of what had been said since it was perfectly clear that the date ought to be prolonged to cover existing contracts and put all men on the same footing. He believed if a vote could be taken of the House regardless of Party considerations that would be the decision at which they would arrive. If they proceeded on the lines existing in the clause it would give protection to those whose tenancies expired within the period, and would give no protection in cases where the tenancies expired afterwards. He did not know why the promoters should object to the Amendment; was it because they had made one concession they declined to make another? That might be good Party tactics, but it was not common-sense, and it was not the sort of conduct that was going to help them get their Bill through. They were wasting time in resisting an Amendment which was fair and just, and they were deliberately determined to do a gross injustice to a considerable section of the community.

Mr. Soares rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the question be now put."

***Mr. SPEAKER** said he thought the House was prepared to come to a decision. [Cries of "No," and Members rose on both sides to continue the debate.]

*MR. SPEAKER: Then the Question is "that the question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 278; Noes, 77. (Division List No. 146.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, JohnEmmott(Somers’t
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams(Dev’np’rt
Benn, W.(T’w’rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T.(Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A.(Inverness Burghs)
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras, W
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H(Sussex,E.Grinst’d
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, CharlesRamsay(Galw’y
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc’r)
Harmsworth,R.L(Caithn’ss-sh.
Hart-Davies, T.
Haslem, James (Derbyshire)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G.(Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras,E.
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B’ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah(Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E.)
M‘Callum, John M.
M‘Hugh, Patrick A.
M‘Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M‘Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncast’r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O’Brien, Kendal (TipperaryMid
O’Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O’Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O’Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O’Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O’Doherty, Philip
O’Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O’Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O’Dowd, John
O’Hare, Patrick
O’Malley, William
O’Shaughnessy, P. J.

Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearson, W.H.M(Suffolk, Eye)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price, Robert John(Norfolk, E.
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas.E.(Manchester)
Scott, A.H.(Ashton-und.-Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon.T. (Hawick B.)
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.)
Snowden, P.
Spicer, Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Tennant, Sir Edward(Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Torrance, A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, L. (Carmarthen)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon.C.H.W.(Hull,W.)
Wilsou, P. W. (St. Pancras S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Soares and Mr. Arthur Dewar.

AYES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. SirH.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T.(Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael HughHicks
Beckett,Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hn.Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, CharlesCurtis(Antrim,S.
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Duncan, Robert (Lanark,Gov'n
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, SirW.Evans-(T'rHam.
Hardy,Laurence(Kent, Ashf'rd
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley(Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn.Col.W.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R
Lee, ArthurH.(Hants,Fareham
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin, S.)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nicholson, Wm.G.(Petersfield)
O'Neill, Hon. RobertTorrens
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford,East)
Starkey, John R.
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put accordingly, "That those words be there added."

The House divided:—Ayes, 96; Noes, 257. (Division List No. 147.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.HnSirAlex.F.
Agnew, George William
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt. Hn.Sir H.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-

Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry,N.
Beach,Hn,Michael Hugh Hicks
Beck, A. Cecil
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Charles Curtis(Antrim,S.
Craig,Captain James (Down,E.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dixon-Hartland,Sir FredDixon
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.E'm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt. Hn. Col.W.
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lamont, Norman
Lane-Fox. G. R.
Lee, Arthur H.(Hants,Fareham
Lockwood,Rt.Hn. Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin,S.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Partington, Oswald
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renton, Major Leslie
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. LionelWalter
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos.Myles
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford,East)
Starkey, John R.
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisb'ry
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond. Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A.Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, Hon. C. H.W. (Hull,W.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Cave and Mr. Laurence Hardy.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christch.)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (S'mrs't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beauchamp, E.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (D'v'np't
Benn, W.(T'w'r' H'ml'ts,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Boland, John
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh
Brunner, Sir John T. (Chesh.)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberd'n
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Channing, Francis Allston
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew,W.
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W.J. (S.Pancras,W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex, E. Gr'st'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, C. Ramsay (Galway)
Dickinson, W.H. (St.Pancras,N
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustance
Findlay, Alexander
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harmsworth,R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazell, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen,W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, W. Bateman (S'm'rs't,N.
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Jones, Leif (Appleby)

Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'hs.
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles H (Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, N.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradf'd, E.)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T. F. (Wolverham'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Horwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Torrance, A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (H'dd'rsf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Soares and Mr. Arthur Dewar.

Clause added to the Bill.

MR. LAMBTON moved an Amendment to the preamble of the Bill, which states that—

> "it is expedient, in the interest of good husbandry, that better security should be made for the capital and labour invested by tenants in the cultivation of the soil."

The Amendment was that the words "landlords and" should be inserted after "by." He said that an examination of the provisions of the Bill would show that it was necessary that a proposal of this sort should be introduced. After the speeches they had heard that day from the opposite side it was most necessary to have the House express an opinion, and landlords as well as tenants ought to have some security for their capital and labour. This was a very far-reaching Bill. It established dual ownership and other things, and none of the hon. Members opposite seemed to consider it necessary that the capital and labour expended by a landlord on his property for the purpose of agriculture should be safeguarded. If they looked through the provisions of the Bill they would see that it was absolutely necessary that his

Amendment should be adopted, because there were many clauses under which the landlord would suffer considerable hardship. He would forfeit not only some of his interests, but the security he had now for his life, because under one of the clauses right was given to a tenant to kill hares and rabbits with firearms. The landlord and his guests would walk about, therefore, in fear of being struck by bullets. The fourth clause, dealing with the freedom of cropping and disposal of produce, raised a very large question. The mode of cultivation, cropping, or disposal of produce differed in every county, and he was told even in every estate; yet this Bill proposed to break every contract. They were told that landlords were to have time to discuss what the Bill meant, but they were not allowed time to alter their contracts. The dual ownership established by Clause 5 was a very large question, and there was not time to discuss it in one afternoon. This was a question of which notice certainly ought to be taken in the preamble of the Bill. The system of dual ownership, which was regarded with favour in some quarters, was not recognised as a desirable form of owning land in this country. The tenants at the present time enjoyed great advantages which, he thought, the owners did not enjoy. The promoters of the Bill seemed to look at the question from the point of view of securing the interests of the tenants; but the interests of the landlords were also deserving of consideration. Clause 7, for instance, provided that the consent of the landlord was not required for the laying down of permanent pasture, or for—

> "Repairing buildings, roads, bridges, watercourses, ponds, wells, or reservoirs, or of works' for the application of water-power, or for supply of water for agricultural or domestic purposes."

This far-reaching clause was one which he thought the promoters of the Bill could not have thoroughly considered. In most districts of England the landlords did the repairs themselves, and as to permanent pasture any landlord who was interested in the proper cultivation of his land should be consulted on the question. The provision as to "supply of water for agricultural or domestic purposes" might mean that a tenant could provide reservoirs and water-power which would enable him to provide the farmhouse with electric light. When the tenant left the farm the single arbitrator under the Bill would probably lay down that this was an improvement for which the landlord ought to pay compensation. It must also be recollected that the landlord had to pay compensation in cash. The compensation would be determined according to existing ideas of what a so-called improvement was worth, and it would be seen how inequitable this was when they considered the further provisions of the clause. It provided that the consent of the landlord should not be required, among other things, for the planting of orchards, fruit trees, strawberries, asparagus, and other vegetable crops. That would put the landlord in a perfectly impossible position. The value of land which was worth £5 an acre, when planted with strawberries or rhubarb, might fall in two or three years time to £3 or £2 10s.; but the tenant, when he went out, would be awarded, under this Bill, compensation on the basis of £5. Surely no man could call that justice. In the district of Biggleswade the market gardens produced onions which were worth £10 a ton a few years ago; but owing to foreign competition the labouring classes were now able to buy onions much cheaper. At any rate, what was worth £10 a ton a few years ago was now worth only £3, and the landlord might be called upon to pay to a tenant who had planted onions compensation at a rate which would represent their value at £10 a ton. The tenant in that way would profit in a double degree—he would profit from the fertility of the land while he remained in occupation, and he would on leaving get a profit from the landlord in the shape of compensation for improvements. The district of Leeds was not a very promising place for the growing of rhubarb, but a large amount of rhubarb was grown there and sold in the market at a large price. The method was——

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must confine himself to the Amendment to the preamble. Many of his observations would have been pertinent to Clause 7, but I do not think that the hon. Gentleman is entitled to go into these matters now.

MR. LAMBTON said he was pointing out how necessary it was to preserve the interests of the landlords. It was obvious that in the interests of good husbandry the interests of the landlord must be considered as well as those of the tenant. Under this Bill the whole subject would become a mass of litigation, and he desired that the Bill should be so amended that it would be clearly understood by all parties in the land that the landlords' interests as well as the tenants' were to be preserved. He begged to move.

*LORD HELMSLEY, in seconding the Amendment, said it raised one of the most important questions which could arise in the discussion of the Bill. The point ultimately raised was as to which was the best system of land tenure—whether it should be a system in which the landlord and the tenant had each a distinct sphere of action, or whether it should be a system in which one individual only had a sphere of action in the land. The Bill recognised only the rights of the tenant, and the Amendment was necessary in order that the rights of the landlord, which the House surely would admit did exist, might be properly safeguarded. Under the existing system the tenant utilised the land at a certain rent, and he was able to get the use of more land, owing to the fact that the landlord's capital was sunk in the land, than he could if he were the occupying owner. A great many hon. Gentlemen opposite thought that occupying ownership was the only system which ought to prevail. If they were to say that the landlords' interests should be removed altogether it would be a position which one could understand, but it would not be a just form of legislation, and it was not the form of legislation which, as yet, they would expect any House of Commons to pass. The Bill went some way in that direction, for it did not recognise the rights of the landlords who had provided so much of the capital employed in connection with the land. There was no question as to whether a farmer would or would not be better if he owned his present holding. By employing a certain amount of capital the tenant farmer was able under the present system to get the use of so much land out of which he got his living. No one would dispute that the real thing that mattered to a farmer was the amount of land he was able to use; that was far more important to him than anything else. The more land he was in occupation of the more likely he was to make a profit out of it. Some interesting tables had been prepared showing that under the present system of tenure a man with a given amount of capital was able to obtain the use of a considerably larger area of land than he would be able to secure with the same capital under a system of occupying ownership. He dared say that hon. Members had seen the tables to which he referred, which showed pretty plainly that the tenant derived benefit from the capital which the landlord had in the holding. If it was admitted that the landlord's capital was of value to the tenant by enabling him to use more land than he otherwise could it must be admitted that this capital should be secured to the landlord and not confiscated. The Bill took away from the landlord part of his right in land. Instead of discouraging capital the object of legislation should be to encourage it and increase it so that there should be more for the tenants to have the use of.

Amendment proposed—

"In preamble, page 1, line 3, after the word 'by,' to insert the words, 'landlords and.'"—(*Mr. Lambton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. SOARES said that although he regretted the amount of time which had been occupied in discussing this Amendment, he must say that for some reasons he did not regret it had been moved. He sincerely trusted that tenant farmers who were watching the progress of this measure would observe the words of the preamble to which the Party opposite were taking exception. They were that—

> "It is expedient in the interest of good husbandry that better security should be made for the capital and labour invested by tenants in the cultivation of the soil."

LORD HELMSLEY indicated dissent.

MR. SOARES said it was to that proposition that objection had been taken and an Amendment moved. [Cries of "No" and "An addition."] The real parent of the Bill was the hon. Member for South Molton. Although he had now deserted the green fields for the blue water, let any hon. Member who wanted to know whether he had practical knowledge of tenant-farming go down into Devonshire and inquire. The preamble was passed unanimously by the Grand Committee upstairs. There was not a word said against it then. The Grand Committee was a very good one; they had no less than nine sittings, they had never to wait a minute for a quorum, and there were never less than forty-three Members present at any meeting.

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY reminded the hon. Member that he had proposed to amend the preamble from the beginning of the proceedings in Committee, and had only refrained from moving it to expedite progress. Therefore it was not quite accurate to say that they had consented to this part of the Bill being passed without any Amendment. Referring to the part taken by Mr. Agar-Robartes in Committee, he wished to say that although they did not agree with that Gentleman in politics, they on that side of the House could not but extend sympathy to him in the disappointment he had recently experienced, more especially as they understood the position to be the result of no misconduct of his own. His hon. friend who had last spoken and he were on common ground in their relation to the land. He was as proud of his Bohemian descent as no doubt the hon. Member for Barnstaple was of his Portuguese ancestry.

***Mr. SPEAKER**: I fail to see what is the relevance of this genealogical research.

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY said that his object was to show that it took a family some time before they became competent to advise the House on land tenure. It had taken his family 700 years; his hon. friend's not, he thought, so long; but his descendants would look back with pride to the help he gave on this occasion. He wanted to say seriously that this Bill touched some of the most vital problems of the day, especially all economic questions relating to the land. The preamble of the Bill was not, he thought, accurate, and it wanted correction as well as some of the clauses. The occupier's position in a case of land tenure was very important, but it was not the sole interest, and they could not in the interests of the community at large forget the interests of other classes. It was a fatal mistake to give exceptional privileges to one class at the expense of another; to take away the legitimate property of one class, and give it without consideration to another. The Amendment asserted the joint interest of landlord and tenant in the problems dealt with by the Bill. It had been estimated that between 1875 and the year 1902, owing to the depression in agriculture, the tenants had lost no less a sum than £253,000,000. That undoubtedly established a very good case for the full consideration by legislation of the position of the tenants. But it should also be remembered that in the same time, and as a result of the same causes, the owner had lost £1,054,000,000 worth of property. Surely that showed that they must be careful in helping one class that the other class was not sacrificed. It could not too often be repeated that there could be no hope for the agricultural industry unless it attracted capital, but he maintained that the return for an investment in land after deducting rates, tithes, insurance, etc., was small and precarious at the best. It was of the most intense importance to the occupants of land that the owners should be induced to live on their own soil; but his contention was that this Bill would tend very largely to restrict the enjoyment of those landlords who did so. There was a conviction in some quarters that the landlords drew the money from the soil and spent it elsewhere. That was a mistake; he would give an instance, for the accuracy of which he could personally vouch. During fourteen years the total rental received from a small estate in the country was £58,000. Rates, taxes, tithes, insurance, came to £10,000, leaving £48,000; but out of that £48,000 there had to be spent on improvements and repairs for increasing the accommodation of the tenants, for the better housing of the labourers, etc., £22,000. Further, there had been spent in wages to those who lived on the property £18,000, so that during the fourteen years, £50,000 of the rental had been returned to the soil. He could assure the Committee that the reason why the owners remained on the soil was because they had an intense love of their own homes; and they realised that the first duty of a man who lived in his own home was to consider the welfare of all members of the establishment and grant them guidance and assistance. He thought full reason had been given why the Amendment which would unite owners and occupiers and all connected with the soil should be accepted. It would show a sense of fair play.

MR. SOARES rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 286; Noes, 78. (Division List No. 148.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, A. Acland (Christch.)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (S'm'rs't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Benn, John Williams (D'v'np't
Benn, W. (T'w'r H'ml'ts, S.Geo
Bennett, E. N.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Chesh.)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Buxton, Rt.Hn. Sydney Charles
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt.Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambert)
Collins, Sir W. J. (S.Pancras, W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex, E.Gr'st'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cowan, W. H.
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Delany, William
Devlin, C. Ramsay (Galway)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St.Pancras, N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Wals'l
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Heref'd, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Hammond, John
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R. L. (Caithn'ss-sh
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberd'n, W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, W. Bateman (Som'rs't, N.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominst'r
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras, E.
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.

M'Callum, John M.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Price,Robert John (Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas.E.(Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E.
Torrance, A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath,North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Soares and Mr. Winfrey.

NOES

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Aubrey-Fletcher,RtHon.SirH.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach,Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates,E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,CaptainJames(Down, E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland,SirFredDixon
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon,SirW.Evans-(T'rHam.
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BurySEdm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.SirJohnH.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Keswick, William
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants,Fareham
Lockwood,Rt.HnLt.-Col.A.R.
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin, S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts,S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter

Sandys, Lieut.-Col.Thos. Myles
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford, East)
Starkey, John R.
Tennant,SirEdward(Salisbury
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson,A.Stanley (York,E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put accordingly, "That those words be there inserted in the Bill."

The House divided:—Ayes, 84; Noes 285. (Division List No. 149.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon.Sir H.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn.MichaelHughHicks
Beale, W. P.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R.(Marylebone,E.)
Coates,E.Feetham(Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Capt. James (Down, E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland,SirFredDixon
Duncan,Robert(Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.SirJohn H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Keswick, William
Lamont, Norman
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee,Arthur H.(Hants.,Fareham
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col. Charles W.(Evesham
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos.Myles
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford, East)
Starkey, John R.
Tennant, Sir Edward(Salisbury
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Whitehead, Rowland
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Lambton and Viscount Helmsley.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork,N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, A. Acland(Christchurch)
Allen, Chalres P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury,E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey(Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Benn, John Williams(Devonp't
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Boland, John
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner,Sir John T.(Cheshire)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buxton, Rt. HnSydneyCharles
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt Hn RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm J.(S.Pancras,W
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,CH(Sussex,EGrinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies,David(Montgomery Co.
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson,W.H.(St. Pancras,N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan,C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,Major E.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)

Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford,S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,RtHn.Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Hammond, John
Hardy, George A.(Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B.(Worc'r)
Harmsworth,R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, EdmundG.(Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, HughCecil(St.Pancras, E.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex,Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah(Down,S.)
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central
Price,RobertJohn(Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell(Scarboro'
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T.F.(Wolverhampt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson,Sir GScott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rusell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, Chas. E (Manchester)
Scott,A. H. (Ashton underLyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T.(Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanger, H. Y.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E.
Torrance, A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Soares and Mr. Winfrey.

*MR. SPEAKER said that in consequence of the decision of the House on the last Amendment, an Amendment standing in the name of Colonel Kenyon-Slaney was out of order. This Amendment ran—

> "Preamble, page 1, line 3, at end, to add the words 'but consistently with the rights of the owners thereof, and with the capital and labour invested by them in its cultivation and development, and with the interests of the rural labouring classes, and of the community generally in such investment fund.'"

The House had decided that better security should not be given for the capital invested by landlords, and therefore that decision covered the Amendment or at all events a portion of it.

MR. SOARES, on the point of order, asked whether the Amendment was not beyond the scope of the Bill.

*MR. SPEAKER thought that the interests of the agricultural labourer and the question in regard to investments in land came within the scope of the Bill. The House, however, had already dealt with a portion of the Amendment.

MR. SOARES said the Bill only dealt with the relations between landlords and tenants and tenants and landlords.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY wished to point out that the labourers formed a very considerable part of the arrangements between landowners and tenants, and to leave out the labourers was not part of the policy of hon. Members on that side of the House.

*MR. SPEAKER agreed that he could not say that the labourer was not a tenant. He thought he very often was a tenant.

MR. SOARES wished to know, if the labourer was a tenant, whether he was within the preamble of the Bill.

SIR E. CARSON said the words of the preamble dealt with the capital and labour invested. Therefore could it not be said that questions concerning labourers could be dealt with?

*MR. SPEAKER said that these additions to the preamble led to very little, and until one saw the Amendment or the clause which was proposed, one could not say whether it was in order or not. He could not say on the face of it that there might not be Amendments which might deal with this subject, which might come within the scope of the Bill.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY said he would endeavour to keep within the ruling of the Speaker and to make his observations as short as possible. He moved the insertion of the words "but consistently with the interests of the rural labouring classes and of the community generally in such investment." The interest of the rural labouring classes happened to be a point which he had spent some fifty years of his life in attempting to solve. Therefore if there was any man in the House who could speak with authority on the matter it was himself. Every single labourer on his estate held his cottage from him and was his tenant. He held it under conditions which saved him from capricious eviction or any capricious action whatever. Therefore he was very much interested in this question, and on his estate the occupation of the labourers of their cottages was a matter of first rate importance as to the conditions attaching to the tenancies. There were many people who seemed to think that if they settled the financial question between the owner and occupier they had settled the whole question concerning the rural community. That, however, was not so.

MR. SOARES said the promoters of the Bill were prepared to accept the

Amendment provided the hon. and gallant Gentleman would finish his speech. He pointed out that the hon. and gallant Gentleman had himself said that he did not wish needlessly to occupy the time of the House.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY said he was not going to be outdone in courtesy by the hon. Gentleman, and would at once finish his speech.

Amendment proposed—

"In the Preamble, page 1, line 3, at the end to add, 'but consistently with the interests of the rural labouring classes and of the community generally in such investment.'"—(*Colonel Kenyon-Slaney.*)

Question, "That those words be there added," put, and agreed to.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (City of London) rose to move to omit Sub-section 1 of Section 1 which amended the Agricultural Holdings Act of 1900. This sub-section repealed the proviso in the Agricultural Holdings Act of 1900, which limited the scope of the improvements in respect to which compensation was to be given. It did not give any description or indicate in any way what the improvements were for which the tenant was to be compensated, and that appeared to him to set a very bad precedent. The Agricultural Holdings Act of 1900 had been in operation for something like six years and had worked extremely well. He was aware there were some hon. Members on that side who thought that a portion of the Act of 1900 might be omitted, and that the words "the inherent capability of the soil" might be left out. For his part he did not think so, and when one considered what the expression meant, he thought it was obvious that these words should be retained. What the tenant should be compensated for was for what he himself had done, and he ought not to be compensated for what he had not done. If he developed "the inherent capabilities of the soil" he was simply doing his duty and he reaped the reward of good husbandry by the crops which his cultivation produced, and it seemed to him that it would be a mistake to remove this safeguard of the landlords' interest. There were a certain number of men among tenants who were called "scampers," who did not preserve "the inherent capabilities of the soil," their intention being to take as much out of the soil as they possibly could, and then go somewhere else. The preamble of the Bill said that it was brought forward "in the interest of good husbandry." Therefore it was not expedient to omit anything which was a safeguard for good husbandry. He thought the omission of the provision in the Agricultural Holdings Act, 1900, would tend to realise the fear which had been expressed that this Bill would only increase litigation and not benefit the landlord or the tenant, but only the lawyer. He did not want to say anything detrimental to the legal profession, but they were not averse to anything which brought business to them. He thought the proper limit of the tenants' claim for improvements should be the actual cost, but he would not go into that matter now because it was possible it might be brought up at a later stage.

And, it being Five of the clock, further consideration of the Bill, amended by the Standing Committee, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended (by Standing Committee), to be further considered upon Friday next.

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 3, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at Four minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 25*th June*, 1906.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill; Metropolitan District Railway Bill. Reported without Amendment.

Lord Tredegar's Supplemental Estate Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Corporation Bill; Kettering Water Bill. Reported, with Amendments.

Metropolitan Railway Bill. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

Brixham Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill. The consent of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in right of his Duchy of Cornwall, signified; and Bill reported with Amendments.

Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [H.L.]; Hull Joint Dock Bill [H.L.]. Commons Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Hackney Electricity Bill. Committed.

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Bill. Brought from the Commons, read 1ª, and referred to the Examiners.

Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 6) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (Poor Law) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. Read 3ª (according to order), and passed.

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]. House in Committee (according to order): Amendments made: Standing Committee negatived: The Report of Amendments to be received To-morrow.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [H.L.]. House again in Committee (according to order): Amendments made: Standing Committee negatived: The Report of Amendments to be received To-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill; Ascot District Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill; Twickenham and Teddington Electric Supply Bill; Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill; Pontefract Corporation Bill; Edinburgh Corporation Bill; Lancashire Electric Power Bill; Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill; North West London Railway Bill; Bristol Corporation Bill. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the following Lords be proposed to the House to form the Select Committee for the consideration of the said Bills; (viz.) L. Clifford of Chudleigh (Chairman), L. Colchester, L. Wynford, L. Ritchie, L. Sanderson; agreed to; and the said Lords appointed accordingly: The Committee to meet on Wednesday the 4th of July next, at Eleven o'clock; and all petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

EDUCATION BOARD PROVISIONAL ORDERS CONFIRMATION (KESTEVEN, &c.) BILL [H.L.].

Order of the day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3ª."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Bill read 3ª.

LORD MONKSWELL: My Lords, I do not propose to move the Amendment of which I have given notice. I have seen the Board of Agriculture and am satisfied with the Bill as it stands.

Moved, "That the Bill do pass."—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

On Question, Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

PETITION.

THE EDUCATION BILL.

THE MARQUESS OF LONDONDERRY: My Lords, I desire to present to your Lordships a petition from the parents or guardians of children attending the Blackburn Church of England higher grade school, being a public elementary school in the diocese of Manchester, in favour of a continuance of denominational teaching.

EDUCATION.

Petition in favour of maintenance of existing religious teaching in Church of England schools; of parents and guardians of children attending school at Blackburn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3651. France (Martinique).
No. 3652. Turkey (Erzeroum).

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP.

Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1905. Report and statistics.

(Dangerous Trades)—Statement of the action taken by the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1891, 1895, and 1901.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

Return of advances made under the the Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of February, 1906.

EXPLOSIVES (EXPLOSION AT BLACKBECK, LANCASHIRE).

Report to the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the circumstances attending an explosion which occurred in the gunpowder factory at Blackbeck, Lancashire, on April 30th, 1906.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN INDIA).

Return of all loans raised in India chargeable on the revenues of India outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ended March 31st, 1906, with the rates of interest and total amount payable thereon, &c.

SEA FISHERIES REGULATION ACT, 1888.

Order made by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries under the provisions of the above Act for the variation of an order for uniting the Lancashire and Western Sea Fisheries District.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

CONVEYANCING BILL [H.L.] (No. 137).
SETTLED LAND BILL [H.L.] (No. 138).
MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY BILL [H.L.] (No. 139).

Report from the Select Committee (with Proceedings of the Committee), made, and to be printed. (No. 136.): Bills reported with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House; and to be printed as amended.

EDUCATION OF DEFECTIVE CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

House in Committee (according to order): Bill reported without amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

NORTH SEA FISHERIES.

*THE EARL OF ONSLOW rose "To call attention to the proceedings of the International Council for the investigation of the North Sea; and to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries whether he would lay on the Table of the House the Reports of the British Delegates attending those meetings since the year 1902; and whether the investigations were likely to be continued after next year; and, if so, whether His Majesty's Government intended to take further part in them; and to move for Papers."

The Noble Earl said: My Lords, in putting these Questions I ask leave to direct your attention to the circumstances which have led up to the present state of affairs in connection with the International Council. The subject arose as long ago as the year 1885. At that time a Trawling Commission reported that there was undoubtedly a progressive diminution in the supply of edible fish in the North Sea, and shortly afterwards an invitation was received from Norway and Sweden to take part in some International Conference or Council to inquire into this important subject, affecting as it does the food supply of a large portion of the population both of this country and of our Continental neighbours. The Foreign Office replied that Great Britain would join—

> "if it is clearly understood that the main object with which the proposed researches are to be undertaken is the question as to whether any existing methods of fishing are or are not exercising a detrimental effect on the supplies of fish."

That has been the key note of the position of this country throughout the whole of the sittings of the Council, but I am afraid that it has not, at any rate not until quite recently, been regarded with that weight and deference which I think are due to a country so largely interested in fishing as is Great Britain and Ireland.

The delegates who were sent to the preliminary conference were instructed to propose a thorough scheme for obtaining statistical information as to the quantity and quality of fish obtained by different methods of fishing; and it was agreed that we should join for two years provided that before the end of that time the Council had collated and analysed the sea fishery investigations already made by the different countries. It was then proposed that Great Britain should charter a special steamer to carry on the work of the Council; but it was pointed out by the officials of the Department concerned—namely, the Board of Trade—that a steamer working 280 days at fifteen hours a day could only cover seventeen square miles, whereas the trawlable area of the North Sea was 100,000, and that it would therefore be of little use to collect statistics only by special steamers.

Further meetings were held, and, in the year 1901, this country agreed to adhere to the scheme and to grant a sum of £12,000 in three years, and, if satisfied with the work, to extend that grant for two more years. That, my Lords, will bring the termination of the period during which this country agreed to contribute to the International Council to the month of July, 1907. I am, therefore, anxious to know whether His Majesty's Government have taken into consideration the results of the work of the Council, whether they are satisfied with it, whether they have been invited to continue beyond the period of five years, and, if they have, whether they intend to do so. I venture to think, from the short experience I had when at the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, that we have not received value for our money, and I am very anxious indeed that His Majesty's Government, while there is yet time, should take this into their serious consideration, and that if they are pressed to continue the work of the Council and to act with other nations on the Council, they will, at any rate, see that we get good value for our money.

The money allotted by this country has been administered by a Committee consisting of representatives (1) of the Treasury; (2) of, first, the Board of Trade, and afterwards, when the Fisheries Department was transferred to the Board of Agriculture, of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries; and (3) of the Scottish Office. The expenditure, however, has not been incurred in the collection of statistics, which from the outset it was the intention of His Majesty's Government should be the principal work of the Council, but it has been incurred on the two steamers, one the property of the Scottish Fishery Board and the other the property of a private association called the Marine Biological Association.

The Conference met in Copenhagen in 1902. The British delegates were instructed that statistics should be obtained from a sufficient number of vessels to be representative of the whole of the trawling trade. They were told that—

> "His Majesty's Government cannot help feeling that with the small number of surveying vessels available, investigations may be of too superficial a character to inspire confidence."

What was true then is true to-day. In 1903 an Act was passed transferring the Fishery Department from the Board of Trade to the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, and, being at the head of that Board, I called for a report from the Marine Biological Association and the Scottish Fishery Board as to what extent the instructions given to the delegates, which had been the policy of His Majesty's Government from the very beginning, had been carried out. We were informed by the Marine Biological Association that they were quite unable to supply that information, as it would cause serious inconvenience to the current work they were engaged on in connection with the international scheme. We then wrote to the International Bureau asking whether the scheme included investigation at various ports of landing into the number and size of fish brought by commercial vessels from the known grounds, and the reply we received was that schemes for investigation at ports of landing were to be prepared by the convener of committees, but none had yet been sent in.

The instructions given to our delegates attending the next Conference were—

> "It appears now to be generally recognised that the most practically efficient means of extending knowledge of fishing problems is to utilise the material brought in by commercial fishing vessels from known fishing grounds at the termination of each trip, by the examination at the ports of landing of large quantities of fish, with a view to ascertaining their size, sexual maturity, rate of growth, and other conditions."

I subsequently introduced into this House a Bill which had for its object the prevention of the catching of immature or under-sized fish in the well-known nursery grounds. That Bill was referred to a Select Committee of your Lordships' House, who reported that in their opinion there was a continuous and serious diminution of the number of fish in the North Sea, and that it was time some active steps were taken. After that it was necessary to consider the position of this country at the end of the first three years, and it was determined that it was not advisable to interfere with the existing state of affairs until the termination of the five years.

The question for the consideration of His Majesty's Government is whether this country is sufficiently represented, and whether her views have adequate weight on the International Council. The Council consists of two representatives of each of the participating States, viz., Great Britain, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Russia, and Finland. The Council acts through a bureau, which is composed of three ordinary and four extraordinary members. The ordinary members are Dr. Herwig, Germany; Professor Petersson Sweden; and Dr. Hoek, Holland. The extraordinary members are Dr. Drecshell, Denmark; Professor von Grimme, Russia; Professor Nanse, Norway; and Professor D'Arcy Thompson, Scotland. It will thus be seen that on the Council England has but one vote out of eighteen, and on the bureau none. Yet England is by far the greatest fishing Power, her trawling industry being three times greater than that of all the other Powers bordering on the North Sea combined. In any proposal to reduce the sea area of moderate depth—which is available to trawling vessels of all nations in common—by an increase of the three mile territorial limit, her interests, therefore, are necessarily opposed to those of the other nations, since she has more to lose and less to gain than any other Power. The last meeting of the Council was held in 1905 at Copenhagen, and the delegates were again instructed to press very strongly for an examination of the statistics which had already been collected, and for the formulating of some scheme for further collection. I am glad to say that that was adopted by the Council, but it was adopted in 1905 instead of in 1902, and I am afraid it is very unlikely that much progress will be made in regard to it during this year. The Council was furnished with a report from the convener of Committee B, which is the one that deals with statistics, and he said that the analyses and collection of the *data* would require considerable time, and that he hoped an opportunity would be afforded for full consideration before the time arrived for drawing up the definitive report of the Committee. In the meantime he submitted an *ad interim* report, in regard to which the Council returned thanks for the pains he had taken, but declined to accept responsibility for the conclusions contained in his report.

When I first put this notice on the Paper of your Lordships' House, the Blue-book which I hold in my hand had not been presented to Parliament, and it was my intention to ask the noble Earl the President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries to lay these Papers on the Table of the House. But, even now, we have not got anything like all the information we wish to have. The Blue-book does not contain the preliminary report of the Marine Biological Association upon which the Council reported adversely; neither does it contain any account of the proceedings which took place in February of this year, and which account is necessary to elucidate all that is set out in the Blue-book. I do not think that the results have been in any way commensurate with the expenditure of the International Council. What we want to know is, Is there over-fishing? Is there destruction of small and immature fish? And on that we have no information whatever, although the Council has been sitting for over four years. It is true that the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries has made some investigations on its own account, but not out of money provided for the International Council.

I believe that a much better way of attaining the object we have in view would be to follow the recommendation contained in the Report of the Royal Commission presided over by the noble Earl the Secretary of State for the Colonies, in which it was urged that there should be established in each Department concerned an independent and efficient branch charged with fishery matter only, including the collection of statistics and carrying out of investigations and experiments. If that were done, instead of an expenditure of between £14,000 and £15,000 a year which this country has been incurring for the past five years, we might for a sum of £4,000 or £5,000 have a most important collection of statistics. We might have investigation at all the ports of landing; we might have adequate analyses; we might establish a laboratory of our own; and we might obtain some results which would at any rate inform us as to whether or not we are depleting the North Sea, and, if we are, how we can avoid doing so in future; and that without of necessity communicating the results to rival fishing nations.

I have not ventured, because I do not consider myself in a position to do so, to criticise the proceedings of either the Scottish Fishery Board or the Marine Biological Association, but I do humbly submit to your Lordships that they are not being conducted on the right lines, because they are being carried out with individual vessels that can only traverse a very small portion of the trawlable area of the North Sea. I wish I could stop there. But I am bound, in view of certain remarks made by the President of the Marine Biological Association at a meeting of the Society of Arts, to call your Lordships' attention to a reflection upon the officials of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries. Speaking of the Marine Biological Association Professor Ray Lankester said—

> "No kind of assistance or even goodwill had ever been received by the Association from the paid officials connected with fishery matters in this country. Their work had been hindered and threatened by the jealousy of highly paid officials, who failed to understand the importance of the work of the Association."

I heard my noble friend Viscount St. Aldwyn the other night characterise statements in a notice on the Paper of your Lordships' House as utterly untrue and worthy only of the gutter Press. If that is language suitable to your Lordships' House I can only say, having had the honour of presiding over the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, that it adequately described my feelings when I read that attack by one member of the Civil Service upon other members of the Civil Service officials of that Department who are not in a position to reply except through their representatives in Parliament. I greatly regret that such a statement should have been made, because I am satisfied that the officials of my noble friend's Department are anxious to act only in the public interest, in the interest of the trawling industry, which has a large amount of British capital invested in it, and which provides food for an enormous mass of the people of this country and especially the poorest of the poor. I sincerely hope that my noble friend will be able to assure me that His Majesty's Government either have given or will give this matter their serious consideration and endeavour to obtain the scientific and statistical information which we have consistently pressed for, and that if they cannot get that by adhering for a further period to the International Council they will be prepared to get it on their own account.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES (Earl CARRINGTON): My Lords, before I answer the questions that have been put to me by the noble Earl I wish to thank him in the name of the civil servants in my office for the defence he has made on their behalf. I was not aware that any such attack as that quoted by the noble Earl had been made, and I thank my noble friend very sincerely for his words. Though it may not be necessary to use the strong language to which the noble Earl referred, yet at the same time such undeserved attacks cannot be too severely condemned. With regard to the noble Earl's question, I may say at once that I greatly regret that the preliminary Report has been omitted. The noble Earl placed his notice on the Paper some three weeks ago, and in consequence we have issued the Reports of the British delegates attending the meetings of the International Council in the years 1903, 1904, and 1905. The Council met in February this year at Amsterdam, but the British delegates have not yet been able to send in their Report. As soon as we receive it we shall place it at the disposal of the noble Earl and the House. The destruction of immature fish, to which the attention of the Board has been directed, is, I venture to think, a separate question, and I will therefore confine myself entirely to the proceedings of the Council.

My noble friend the Chairman of Committees has explained the facts to the House and has correctly stated that a grant of £15,000 a year was made by the Treasury towards the expenses of the International Council. The five years, as the noble Earl has stated, will end on July 22nd next year, and then, and not until then, it will be the duty of His Majesty's Government to consider how, if at all, they propose to continue this grant. The question has not yet been considered by His Majesty's Government, and therefore it is impossible for me to give any decided statement at the present moment as to what the proposal of the Government will be. But I can assure the noble Earl that we are fully alive to the importance of the subject. The number of the British vessels engaged in steam trawling is seven times as great as that of all the vessels belonging to other countries put together. The instructions to the British delegates have been very succinct and very clear. The delegates attending the Copenhagen meeting in 1905 and the Amsterdam meeting in 1906 clearly contemplated the conclusion of the work of the Council at the end of the five years. In 1905 they were instructed that His Majesty's Government did not intend to continue the expenditure after the expiry of the five years, and this year they have been instructed to impress on the Council the importance of considering the lines on which they will next year draw up their Report, with a view to arriving at a definite conclusion by July, 1907. They were instructed to impress on their foreign colleagues that it is not the intention of His Majesty's Government to participate in the investigations on the present footing after July 22nd, 1907. I will not go into the practical suggestions which have been made by the noble Earl, but I can promise him that they will receive every consideration and attention at the hands of His Majesty's Government.

*LORD HENEAGE: My Lords, after what has fallen from the noble Earl the President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries I feel compelled to say something on behalf of the National Sea Fisheries Association, of which I am president. I do not think the answer is at all what we would have expected after reading the Report, and I hope my noble friend is not going back on what has been stated—that the Council were to prepare their Report with a view to the inquiry coming to an end at the termination of the five years. I am quite certain that those engaged in the fishing industry are very much indebted to the noble Earl for having brought this question forward.

It ought to be pointed out that the fishing industry have never been consulted from first to last with regard to this scientific inquiry. The National Sea Fisheries Association represent the whole of the industry of Great Britain and Ireland and comprise other trades connected more or less with it; the members of that association have millions of money invested in this trade; and yet from first to last we have never been asked to give any advice or given any representation with regard to this inquiry. Since the association was founded, nearly a quarter of a century ago, with the exception of the three years from 1900 to 1903, we have always had the most friendly relations with the presidents of the Board, but I am sorry to say that those relations became very strained during the last two years of Mr. Ritchie's presidency and during the whole of Mr. Gerald Balfour's presidency, and the result was the Resolution carried at the Grimsby Conference and the separation of the Sea Fisheries Department altogether from the Board of Trade.

The Sea Fisheries Association, as I have said, was not consulted in this matter. They were not given any representation on the inquiry and no one was sent from the Board of Trade to represent officially the sea fishing interest. It was agreed to spend £42,000 spread over three years, and £18,500 was handed over to the Scottish Fishery Board, which is not at all in agreement with the English fishing industry on many important questions, and another £18,500 to the Biological Society at Lowestoft, £5,000 being retained for incidental and miscellaneous expenses by the Board of Trade. The whole of the interests of the great fishing industry in the United Kingdom were thus handed over to a local fishery board in Scotland and to a scientific body at Lowestoft without any official representatives whatever.

I should like to remind your Lordships who the representatives were at the first meeting of the Council. The British representatives were the Minister at Copenhagen, Professor D'Arcy Thompson (of the Scottish Fishery Board), Mr. Mills (of the British Rainfall Association), and Mr. Garstang of the Biological Association at Lowestoft. Those were our representatives. There was not on the Council as representing this country one single practical person connected either with the Fishery Board in London or the Association of which I am president. In 1904 my noble friend Lord Onslow, who was then President of of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, consulted our association and very kindly attended personally the discussion which took place as to whether we should approve of another two years extension of the inquiry. We emphatically said no. We held that it was doing more harm than good, and that if the Government had that money to spare we would rather they handed it over to the Fishery Board to spend for the benefit of our own nation. We were told, however, that it could not be helped and that for some diplomatic reason or another it must be extended for two years. But my noble friend did manage to get more representation for us. We had Mr. Archer, one of our ablest officials at the Board at Whitehall, Mr. Masterman, and a gentleman from Ireland put upon the inquiry, and they have been upon it ever since.

But what is the real result of this inquiry? We have gained nothing whatever for the fishing industry in this country. On the other hand, we have handed over a great deal of information which our practical fishermen have gained during the last twenty years or more to foreign countries for their advantage and for which they are paying a very small sum indeed. That is a very serious matter. Only last year the various associations round the coast and the different smack owners were asked to send in returns, not only of how much fish their vessels got, but in what particular parts of the North Sea the fish were caught, and at what times of the year. We are, therefore, handing over to other countries knowledge as to the best places at which to fish, the best times of the year to go there, and the kinds of fish that can be caught at particular times. It is well known that Germany is at the present moment fitting out a fishing fleet which will be ready in the course of a couple of years, and that they have already established in Germany a Fishery Department. Moreover, they have founded a journal for all the information they can get, and anyone who has read that journal will see that they are not very friendly towards this country.

We have had, as I say, no representatives on the inquiry. Scotland, however has; but on two important points the Scottish Fishery Board is entirely at variance with the English Fishery Board and the National Sea Fisheries Association. In the first place, we distinctly desire to uphold freedom of sale for foreign vessels in all our ports and that hospitality which we have always obtained in consequence from other nations. We also entirely repudiate the idea of the three-mile territorial limit being increased, for it will not be to our benefit, but to the benefit of other countries; whilst the Scottish Fishery Board are in favour both of preventing foreign vessels selling in English ports and of increasing the territorial limits. We cannot consider, therefore, that they represent the great fishing industry in this country, and we certainly do not consider, however scientific they may be, that we can put all our faith in the Biological Association. This inquiry may be of great interest to scientists, but it will be a great loss so far as the fishing industry in this country is concerned. I speak for the trawling industry in Scotland as well as the whole of the fishing industry in this country. We desire that an end shall be put at the conclusion of the five years to this inquiry, and that there shall be no more money thrown away upon it.

THE EARL OF ONSLOW: I understand that my noble friend the President of the Board has no objection to laying Papers on the Table of the House, and I therefore move for Papers.

Moved, "That there be laid before the House further Papers relating to the procedings of the International Council for the investigation of the North Sea."—(*The Earl of Onslow.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

THE MERCANTILE MARINE.

LORD MUSKERRY: My Lords, I rise to ask His Majesty's Government whether, if the wages of seamen of merchant vessels are improperly withheld by their employers, it is enacted that the wages shall continue to run and be payable until time of the final settlement thereof; and, if so, to ask whether in view of cases which have happened of improper withholding of the wages of masters of merchant vessels by their owners, His Majesty's Government will be prepared to insert an Amendment to the Merchant Shipping Bill which will give masters the same rights as seamen in respec to their wages continuing to run whenthere is any improper withholding of moneys earned by them in the course of their employment.

As the law stands at preent, the captains of our merchant ships are exposed to the most barefaced robbery. Under the Merchant Shipping Act all persons on board a vessel who have signed on, no matter whether they wear trousers or petticoats, or possess any knowledge of seamanship, are seamen, with two exceptions—namely, the captain of the vessel and the apprentices if the ship carries any. I will tell your Lordships how this injustice works out. A seaman who has some dispute about his or her pay receives from the shipowners every farthing up to the date of the final settlement of the dispute—that is to say, the seaman may be on shore for a year or two doing nothing, yet when the matter is finally settled he is paid for every day spent on shore up to the date of the final settlement. The captain of the vessel, not being a seaman under the Act, has not those advantages, and the consequence is that the moment he is thrown out of employment the payment to him ceases.

Your Lordships may remember that I gave a striking example last year of how this provision works. A certain captain of a sailing vessel met with very bad weather and had to put into port in America to refit. This was an underwriters' job, and the underwriters had such a high opinion of the captain's knowledge of seamanship that they asked him to oversee the repairs that were required. The junior partner of the owning firm, however, went to this port. He found great fault with the captain and finally said to him, "Now, captain, according to your agreement I give you a week's notice and you must go." There was a considerable sum to the credit of the ship, and at the junior partner's request the captain drew a cheque in his favour for that amount. This captain had been in the service of the particular firm for 18 years. The captain naturally did not expect the treatment he was going to receive, and he said, "What about my wages?" The money due to the captain amounted to about £124. "Oh," replied the junior partner, "you may go and be damned. You will get paid when you return to Liverpool and not before." The captain was, therefore, left stranded. He had to cable to England to his wife to send out money to pay his passage home. The wife happened to be an invalid and was away at the time at some watering place, with the result that the money was not sent out. He then managed to borrow the money and returned home. The captain went to the office of this company, which was in Liverpool, and asked for his money, producing all his vouchers, every one of which was duly signed. The reply he received was, "We cannot pay you. You must wait till we hear from the captain who replaced you in the ship." The ship had in the meantime gone to Sydney. Finally, a writ on the captain's behalf was served on this firm, who then applied to Mr. Justice Bargrave Deane, in Chambers, to have the action of the writ suspended till they could hear from the new captain, but his Lordship saw no reason for this. "You have all the papers before you," he said; "you have all the vouchers, and I shall treat this hearing in Chambers as a hearing in Court, and give a verdict for the plaintiff." This is a case which happened last year. I am informed, and believe it to be true, that there is a practice among certain managing shipowners of withholding the payment to captains for some considerable time. The process is known among them as "starving the captain." Eventually they say to the captain who is, of course, losing money, having his family to keep up, "We will give you so much"—possibly a half or a quarter of what is due to him—"and we will give you a good reference." The unfortunate captain accepts that offer and goes off with half, or less, of what is due to him. I contend that that is nothing less than bare-faced robbery. If the captain were a seaman under the Act no managing owner would attempt to do such a thing, because during all the time of waiting for the settlement his pay would be accruing.

There is another matter which I think ought to be looked into. It is very doubtful whether the sums withheld from the captains ever go into the shareholders' account. The idea is that the managing owner takes the money as a sort of commission. Therefore, I think it is necessary, now that the Government are promoting a Merchant Shipping Bill, that masters should be included in the designation of seamen. It does seem an absurd thing that you should describe a stewardess, say, who goes on board for the first time, and a fireman who may never have been at sea before, as a seaman, and that the captain of the vessel, who occupies his position by reason of his superior knowledge of seamanship, should not be a seaman under the Act. I therefore hope His Majesty's Government will give a favourable Answer to the Questions I have placed on the Paper.

THE EARL OF GRANARD: My Lords, the law with regard to the payment of wages of seamen has been correctly stated by my noble friend. The Board of Trade take the view that masters are in a much better position than seamen to make such conditions as they may consider necessary to safeguard their own interests. Any agreement which a master makes with his employer as to the payment of his salary is separate, and of an entirely different character from an agreement made between the master and his crew. His Majesty's Government, therefore, are of opinion that there is no reason for any special legislation on this subject, and they do not propose to bring it in under the Bill which they intend introducing in your Lordships' House in the course of next month.

LORD MUSKERRY: My Lords, to put myself in order, I beg to move the adjournment of the House. I desire to correct one statement made by the noble Earl. The master of a ship is not in a better but in a much inferior position. There are plenty of masters, but few berths going for masters, and there is considerable difficulty in getting seamen, hence the large number of foreign seamen and aliens in the merchant service. But there are plenty of officers holding masters' certificates. The master is, unfortunately, bound to fall in with the agreement made. He is compelled to accept the terms imposed by the shipowner, and I think it is a monstrous thing that a man with his professional qualifications should be dismissed at one week's notice, which is less than would have to be given to a domestic servant. When the Government's Merchant Shipping Bill is in your Lordships' House, I shall move an Amendment on these lines.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): I do not wish to interrupt my noble friend, but he has made a second speech upon a Question. There is no Motion before the House, and I hope my noble friend will excuse me for saying that he has been slightly irregular.

AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTIONS.

*LORD BARNARD: My Lords, I rise to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he has been able to consider the representations made to the Secretary of the Board, on December 5th last, by a deputation from universities, colleges, and agricultural institutions;

and whether there is any prospect of an increased grant to such institutions.

In the autumn of last year the various university institutions of this country which are engaged in the teaching of and research in agriculture, finding that the Government grant was not sufficient to enable them to carry out their work satisfactorily, organised a deputation to the then President of the Board of Agriculture in order to press upon him their claims for an increase in that grant. Unfortunately, on the date fixed for the deputation Mr. Fellowes, the then President, although he had not yet gone out of office, thought that the circumstances were such that he would not be justified in receiving the deputation; but as the gentlemen composing the deputation had come long distances, it was felt that it would be inconvenient to put them off, and with great courtesy the officials of the Board of Agriculture determined that Sir Thomas Elliott should receive the deputation. This he did on December 5th, and in reply to the representations which were then made he gave us a very sympathetic answer, and promised to lay those representations before the new President of the Board as soon as he came into office. I have no doubt that he did so, and that my noble friend Earl Carrington has studied them.

In asking the Question standing in my name, may I be permitted to impress upon the noble Earl that, as was stated by the deputation, we are not asking for money exclusively for instruction, but that we appeal to be placed on the same footing as other countries in being assisted by the Government with the means for carrying on agricultural research. I know it is a difficult thing to press for Government help for this and that object, but I venture to think that this is one of those objects which, without such help, cannot be attained at all. Very large profits are made in many branches of industry in this country which are represented by technical instruction in the colleges, and the great captains of industry in those centres are no doubt able to assist very largely by pecuniary means the endowment both of research and instruction. But we all know the utter impossibility of obtaining such assistance from the agricultural industry. Therefore we look to be put upon an equal footing with foreign countries. I believe that all foreign countries assist very materially in this particular line, and I think I am right in saying that in England we are behind even Scotland, and certainly behind Ireland, in regard to Government help for this particular object.

I sincerely hope that if the noble Earl the President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries cannot promise us a grant in the immediate future, he will hold out some hope of further assistance of some kind. At Armstrong College we found it impossible during the past year, and it will be impossible in the present year, to carry on the agricultural department, of which I have the honour to be president, without additional support. The result is that we had to go to the council of the college last year and beg for an extra grant of £100 a year, and I hold in my hand a letter from the secretary of the college, intimating that the council had agreed to this grant for a further year, but had expressed the opinion that it was high time the State did more for agricultural education. The money voted for this purpose at the present moment is £10,000. The addition of a few thousand pounds would make all the difference.

EARL CARRINGTON: My Lords, the deputation to which the noble Lord has referred was a very important one, as it represented the universities and five or six colleges. It was introduced, I think, by Sir Isambard Owen, and letters of sympathy were sent by the Duke of Northumberland and other noble Lords who were unable to be present. The noble Lord who has called attention to the matter to-day himself made an important speech on that occasion, and probably no one had a greater right to speak than my noble friend, who is chairman of the agricultural committee of the Armstrong College. In his speech the noble Lord then urged that help should be given to those who helped themselves, and he has brought before your Lordships this afternoon an instance of how the subject is being tackled in the Armstrong College and the way in which they have helped themselves.

I can say that His Majesty's Government appreciate all these efforts to provide better facilities for agricultural education. I think everybody will agree that no money could be better spent than that applied in helping farmers to meet the fierce and growing competition which they have to encounter from all sides. The Exchequer has not been ungenerous to my Department. In 1889 £4,500 a year was voted towards this object, and in 1906 the Vote had risen to £11,500. The sum is small, it is true, when compared with the amounts voted in other countries, but it is satisfactory to note that the country has received the full value of the grant owing to the cordial co-operation and good work of the different county councils.

It must not be forgotten that the burden of public expenditure is already heavy, and that it is proposed to provide an extra £1,000,000 for the maintenance of Church schools. At the same time I think that this question is one which might receive the practical consideration of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and I would venture to propose to the noble Lord that some inquiry should be held into the system of agricultural education. There has been no inquiry since 1888—nearly twenty years ago. If it should appear, as I venture to think it would, that there is good ground for an increase of grant, I think those who advocate such an increase would find their hands strengthened very considerably, and it would be possible for us to address ourselves to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subject with stouter hearts. The Government are grateful to the noble Lord for putting the Question, as it gives us an opportunity of expressing our full sympathy with the object he has in view and our earnest desire to see those objects carried out at the earliest possible opportunity.

THE EARL OF ONSLOW: Might I suggest to the noble Earl that the money he saves from the International Council on Fisheries could be given for agricultural education ?

GROUND GAME BILL.

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

LORD BURCHCLERE: My Lords, this Bill only appeared on the notice paper for Second Reading this morning. As your Lordships are aware, it is usual that a Bill coming from the other House, as this one does, should be put down within a certain time; but I am aware that there are many noble Lords interested in this question, and I think it would perhaps be convenient that they should have longer notice before the Second Reading of the Bill is taken. I therefore propose, with your Lordships' permission, not to take the Second Reading until Tuesday, July 3rd.

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Six o'clock, till to-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 25th June, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.:— Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [Lords]; Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Bill [Lords]; County of Durham Electric Power Supply Bill [Lords]; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

Crellin's Patents Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, without amendment.

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Bill; Haslingden Corporation Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Rugby Lower School Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, without amendment.

Barry Railway Bill [Lords], [not amended]; considered; to be read the third time.

Cumberland Electricity and Power Gas Bill [Lords]; Scottish Union and National Insurance Company Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Forfar Corporation Water Order Confirmation Bill, without amendment.

Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill, with an Amendment.

Reserve Forces Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to incorporate the Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Company, and to empower that Company to make and maintain tramways and other works; and for other purposes." [Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to incorporate a body of conservators for the preservation and management as public open spaces of certain commons in the rural district of Henley, in the county of Oxford; and for other purposes." [Nettlebed and District Commons (Preservation) Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for enabling the Ritz Hotel, Limited, to rearrange its capital; and to provide for the extinction of its deferred shares; and for issuing ordinary shares in lieu thereof; and for altering the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company; and for other purposes." [The Ritz Hotel, Limited, Bill [Lords.]

Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill [Lords]; Nettlebed and District Commons (Preservation) Bill [Lords]; Ritz Hotel, Limited, Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

BETTING AND GAMBLING.

Petition from Rugby, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; from Calstock; Nottingham (two); and Selly Oak; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; from Blisland; Ingatestone; Maer (two); Morwenstow; and Thurnham (two); to lie upon the Table.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Petition from Westmoreland, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

LAND VALUES TAXATION, ETC. (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions against; from Glasgow; and Greenock; to lie upon the Table.

PHARMACY BILL.

Petitions against; from Leek; and Sheffield; to lie upon the Table.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petitions for alteration; from Bridgeton; East Gloucestershire; East Renfrewshire and Govan; Halifax; Newcastle-on-Tyne (two); Ripon; and Tiverton (two); to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY.

Petition from Blackpool, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EAST INDIA (LOANS RAISED IN INDIA).

Copy presented, of Return of all Loans raised in India, chargeable on the Revenues of India, outstanding at the commencement of the half-year ending on the 31st March, 1906, etc. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 210.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3650 to 3652 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Copy presented, of Report of the Chief Inspector for 1905. Report and Statistics [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (DANGEROUS TRADES).

Copy presented, of Statement of the action taken by the Home Office under the Factory and Workshop Acts, 1891, 1895, and 1901 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EXPLOSIONS (BLACKBECK, LANCASHIRE).

Copy presented, of Report of the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the circumstances attending an Explosion which occurred in the Gunpowder Factory at Blackbeck, Lancashire, on the 30th April, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901 (HOME WORK).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 27th March; *Mr. Ramsay Macdonald*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 211.]

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

Copy presented, of Return of Advances made under The Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of February, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (IRELAND) (FEMALE INSPECTORS).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 24th April; *Sir Charles Dilke*]; to lie upon the Table.

SEA FISHERIES REGULATION ACT, 1888.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, under the provisions of the Act, for the variation of an Order for uniting the Lancashire and Western Sea Fisheries District [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

HOUSE OF COMMONS (VENTILATION)

Copy presented, of Report and Recommendations of the Committee appointed to investigate and advise the First Commissioner of Works with regard to the improvement of the Ventilation of the House of Commons [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

GREENWICH OBSERVATORY.

Copy presented, of Report of the Astronomer Royal to the Board of Visitors of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAUPERISM (ENGLAND AND WALES) (HALF-YEARLY STATEMENTS).

Copy ordered, "of Statement of the number of Paupers relieved on the 1st day of January, 1906, and similar Statement for the 1st day of July, 1906 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 81, of Session 1905)."—(*Mr. Runciman.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Property and Estate Laws in the Transvaal.

MR. GROVE (Northamptonshire, S.): To ask Mr. Attorney-General whether, seeing that in the case of the death of a trustee holding property in the Transvaal succession or estate duty in respect of the trust estate is levied, he will take steps to bring the English and Transvaal laws into harmony, and so remove the disabilities under which English subjects holding property in the Transvaal suffer.

(*Answered by Sir John Walton.*) It is assumed that the Question refers to English succession or estate duty, and to the death of a person domiciled in the United Kingdom (*see* Finance Act, 1894, s. 2 (2). The general rule is that neither succession duty nor estate duty is leviable in the United Kingdom on the death of a trustee, as no change in the beneficial enjoyment of property is involved. As to succession duty, this is not expressly provided, but it follows from s. 2 of The Succession Duty Act, 1853. As to estate duty, there is an express provision,

s. 2 (3) of The Finance Act, 1894. If the case put in the Question falls within either of the two exceptions referred to in the above sub-section, the grievance can only be that duty is charged here and also in the Transvaal in respect of the same property. Grievances of this nature are intended to be met by s. 20 of The Finance Act, 1894. This section has not, however, been applied to the Transvaal, the reason being that the conditions under which an Order in Council may apply the section have not been satisfied. There was some correspondence last year between the Colonial Office and the Transvaal Government with regard to legislation in that colony necessary to enable His Majesty in Council to apply the section. The Inland Revenue Department are not cognisant of the stage which this correspondence has now reached. There appears to be no case for altering the English law, but any Question directed to that object should be addressed to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is not known whether under the Transvaal law duty is payable on the death of a trustee (as such). I have no power to obtain any alteration in the Transvaal law, and if such alteration is desired, application should be made to the Colonial Office.

Duties of Auxiliary Postman at Derrybrien, County Galway.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that the rural auxiliary postman for Derrybrien, Gort, county Galway, has been employed in that office for over twenty-one years; has any revision taken place in his wages in consequence of the house to house delivery; how many miles were added to his daily average as a consequence of the fresh duties imposed upon him; and will he take all the circumstances into consideration with a view of increasing his wages.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I am not acquainted with the circumstances of the case referred to, but I will have inquiry made on the subject, and will afterwards communicate with the hon. Member.

Workmen's Compensation Act—Restaurant Staff as Domestic Servants.

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether waiters and cooks in restaurants, and potmen, and barmaids are domestic servants within the meaning of that term in the Workmen's Compensation Bill; or whether, being merely workmen, they will come within the scope of the Bill.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I am advised that waiters, potmen, barmaids, and, speaking generally, cooks in restaurants, are not domestic servants within the meaning of that term in the Workmen's Compensation Bill, but the question is one of fact to be decided on the circumstance in each case. The circumstance which is generally considered as most important to show that a servant is a domestic servant is that of residence in the master's house.

Shorthand Notes of the Poplar Inquiry.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether shorthand notes of the proceedings at the Poplar inquiry are being taken; and whether they will be available to Members of this House.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I have arranged for shorthand notes of the proceedings being taken. The notes would only be available to Members of the House if they were printed and issued as a Parliamentary Paper. I propose to defer she consideration of the question whether this should be done until after the completion of the inquiry.

Extra Delivery of Letters at Carrigallen, County Leitrim.

MR. T. F. SMYTH (Leitrim, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he will grant a mid-day delivery of letters in Carrigallen, county Leitrim, as the inhabitants there suffer inconvenience from having only one daily delivery of letters, seeing that Carrigallen is only six miles from Killeshandra, and that the extra cost would only be about £22 yearly.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I have called for a report on this subject, and on its receipt I will communicate with the hon. Member.

Officer in Charge of Magilligan Camp Post Office.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General under what circumstances a Dublin relief clerk, temporarily employed in the Londonderry office, has been selected to take charge of the Magilligan Camp this season, seeing that in former years this duty has been reserved for the staff at Londonderry, and their supercession on this occasion will entail financial loss.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I will make inquiry and will communicate with the hon. Member.

Responsibility to Parliament of the Estates Commissioners.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that the Estates Commissioners are themselves answerable to Parliament, there is any precedent or analogy for refusing to answer an inquiry with reference to one of their non-judicial subordinates, whose work has been declared incorrect by a county court judge; and whether he will now furnish the House with information in the case in question.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I think the hon. and learned Member has somewhat misapprehended the reply which I gave to his former Question on the 20th instant. It was intended to convey that the responsibility for the action taken by the Estates Commissioners in the case of M'Glone rests entirely upon them, and not upon their inspector, who inquired into the case by their direction and on their behalf. The Commissioners are considering the question whether they will take steps to test the decision of the county court judge, and until this question has been decided it will not be convenient to give further information in the case.

Defective Sight of Naval Officers.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, with a view to the safety of His Majesty's ships and their crews, the Admiralty hold the Commander-in-Chief of a station responsible that cases of defective vision on the part of officers commanding ships are reported to the Admiralty; and whether the officer commanding a ship is in a similar manner held responsible in the case of his officers.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) It is naturally the duty of Commanders-in-Chief and Commanding Officers of ships to report any circumstances affecting the capacity of an officer to perform the duties for which he is responsible, but it has not been considered necessary to specify any particular defect as calling for a special report.

Education Authorities and Instruction in Agricultural Co-operation.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether the circular of 13th June, 1902, addressed to county councils and enclosing the Minute of 16th April, 1902, authorising the Buckinghamshire County Council, under Section 8 of the Technical Instruction Act, 1889, to include in their syllabus instruction in the principles and practice of agricultural co-operation, resulted in applications from other county councils, and in the sanctioning of this subject of instruction in other counties, and, if so, in which counties; whether, in pursuance of their powers under Section 2 of the Education Act, 1902, any local education authorities, and, if so, how many, have applied to the Board of Education to sanction the inclusion of the principles and practice of agricultural co-operation in their syllabus of technical instruction; and whether any county, county borough, or other education committees for the purposes of elementary education have applied to the Board of Education for their sanction for teaching this subject in any school under their control, and, if so, in which counties or districts, and in how many instances.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The circulars referred to were issued by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries after consultation with the Board of Education. The Board of Education sanctioned the subject "Principles and Practice of

Agricultural Co-operation," by Minute under The Technical Instruction Act, 1889, on 16th April, 1902, on the representation of the Buckinghamshire County Council that it was a form of instruction suitable to the circumstances of the district. This subject was similarly sanctioned in respect of the areas of fourteen other county councils, viz., Carnarvon, Cheshire, East Sussex, Staffordshire, Essex, East Suffolk, Pembroke, Oxford, Leicester, Shropshire, Carmarthen, Rutland, Cardigan, Devonshire. The Education Act, 1902, rendered obsolete those Minutes of the late Science and Art Department, and made it unnecessary for county councils to obtain the express sanction of the Board of Education for the recognition of any particular subject as a branch of technical instruction. I am not in a position to furnish the number of authorities which now include in their programme of technical instruction any classes on the "Principles and Practice of Agricultural Co-operation." I am not aware that any local authorities for elementary education have attempted to teach children in any public elementary school "The Principles and Practice of Agricultural Co-operation," but I think it hardly likely that an attempt has been made, or, if made, would be fruitful; at all events, in any but the higher classes in those few schools where an unusual number of children attend until fourteen and fifteen years of age.

The Burtonport Railway.

MR. MACVEIGH (Donegal, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a resolution passed on the 11th inst. by the County Council of Donegal, confirming resolutions passed on 23rd August and 16th October, 1905, calling for an inquiry, in the interest of the ratepayers of the guaranteeing area, and the public using the Burtonport Railway, and for the appointment of an arbitrator to inquire into the allegations made by the railway company as to the imperfect completion of the line, the insufficient equipment with engines and rolling stock, and the alleged improper expenditure of public money; and will he say when an arbitrator will be appointed to inquire into the matter and the working of the line generally.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) After very full and repeated consideration of all the circumstances of this case and in view of the terms of the Order in Council, and the agreement with the Treasury for the construction, etc., of the line, the Treasury has decided that it would not be justified in referring the matter to an outside tribunal. A similar Answer was given to unstarred Questions by the hon. Members for West and South Donegal on Monday last.† As regards the working of the line an improvement, has, I understand, already taken place some time ago, and I am not aware of any reason for pressing the Board of Trade to hold an inquiry into the matter.

Applications for Reinstatement from Evicted Tenants in North Roscommon.

MR. JAMES O'KELLY (Roscommon, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many applications for reinstatement from evicted tenants in North Roscommon have been received by the Estates Commissioners; in how many cases have the evicted tenants been restored to their holdings or given equivalent holdings; and what progress has been made in acquiring untenanted land for distribution among the tenants of uneconomical holdings in North Roscommon.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners records are not kept by Parliamentary divisions. The Commissioners have received applications from 156 persons seeking reinstatement in county Roscommon. The reinstatement of fourteen of these has been notified to them. The Commissioners have entered into agreements for the purchase of 1,112 acres of untenanted land, and are negotiating for the purchase of some 2,000 acres in addition

Sale of the Clements Estate, County Leitrim.

MR. DOLAN (Leitrim, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the sale of the Clements Estate at Manorhamilton, county Leitrim, under the Land Act of 1903, has been completed; is he aware that on the 22nd February last the rural district council of Manorhamilton adopted a resolution requesting the landlord to sell a grazing farm at Skreeny, included in the estates to the Estate Commissioners, with the view of providing sites for houses for the working classes in the town of Manorhamilton; has that resolution been considered by the Estates Commissioners; and, if not, would he have the circumstances investigated before the advance of the purchase money on this estate.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 1344.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that the purchase agreements in respect of this estate have only now been lodged with them, and that consequently the sale will not be completed for a considerable time. The Commissioners have not received the resolution referred to, but will be prepared, when dealing with the estate, to consider any application upon the subject which they may receive.

Spread of Consumption in Ireland.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if, in view of the spread of consumption in Ireland, the Government will consider whether any steps can be taken for dealing with the disease.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) This matter has been receiving the serious consideration of the Local Government Board, who are issuing to local authorities and medical officers of health circulars containing recommendations and instructions as to measures designed to check the spread of consumption.

Publication of Irish Historical Manuscripts.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if, in view of the mass of records and historical manuscripts at home and abroad relating to Ireland, which are unpublished and of the desirability of initiating their publication, he will arrange an opportunity of discussing the question before the end of the present session.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) An opportunity of discussing this question will, I take it, be afforded whenever the Estimates for the Irish Record Office may come under discussion. Those Estimates, however, do not belong to Irish Supply. I may remind the hon. Baronet that in recent years considerable progress has been made in the publication of historical manuscripts relating to Ireland. The Annals of Ulster and the Brehon Laws have been edited and published, and the publication in eight volumes of a calendar of the Justiciary Rolls of Ireland up to the 18th year of Richard II. has been authorised, as well as the publication of a volume containing the statutes and ordinances of the early Parliaments and great councils of Ireland. The Historical Manuscripts Commission and the English Record Office are each also engaged upon the publication of manuscripts relating to Ireland. I shall, however, be glad to receive any suggestions on the subject and to do my best to secure the proper editing and publication of these valuable records.

Sale of the Estate of Mrs. Adair, Mountmellick.

Mr. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that five tenants on the estate of Mrs. Adair, Mountmellick, Queen's County, have signed agreements to purchase their holdings at twenty-three years purchase, with bonus added, that the greater portion of the same estate was sold to the tenants eleven years ago at seventeen years purchase, and that the latter tenant purchasers have received one decadal reduction of 14 per cent., and are entitled to two more; and can he say what is the cause of the rise in price under the Act of 1903; and whether the Government propose introducing legislation to prevent such prices being demanded from the Irish tenant purchasers.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the Estates Commissioners that the facts are substantially as stated in the first part of the Question. I could not, within the limits of an Answer, attempt to enter upon a speculation as to the possible cause or causes of the rise in price. As I have already repeatedly stated, the Government are carefully watching the operations of the Land Purchase Acts, with the object of deciding whether amending legislation may be desirable, and I am not at present prepared to add anything to that statement.

Notices to Release Portions of the Bog in County Fermanagh.

MR. DOLAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland by what authority John Crawford, of Lavagh, county Fermanagh, served notices on John Crawford, junior, of Derryvan, county Fermanagh, Samuel Rooney, of Kinglass, county Fermanagh, and Mrs. Crawford, of Mullaghgarrow, to give up the portions of bog in the townland of Mullaghgarrow which had been secured to them in their investment orders when they were purchasing their holdings under the Land Purchase Act in 1892; whether the Earl of Enniskillen sold these portions of bog to John Crawford, of Lavagh; and whether he will give instructions to the Land Commission to see that these people are secured in the rights which they acquired by their terms of purchase.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Land Commission inform me that they have no knowledge of the proceedings referred to in the Question. If the tenant purchasers consider that their rights have been invaded, it is open to them, if so advised, to seek redress by legal proceedings. The matter is not one in which the Land Commission can intervene.

Terms of Purchase of the Carysfort Estate.

MR. COGAN (Wicklow, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a number of tenants on the Carysfort Estate, in the county of Wicklow, have memorialised the Estates Commissioners stating they have refused to agree to the terms of purchase demanded by the landlord, on the ground that they were exorbitant, and they would be unable to pay them; that in consequence the landlord has since harrassed them in various ways, and by duress sought to compel them to consent to his terms, and requesting the Commissioners to refuse to sanction the sale of any portion of the estate until the landlord agrees to reasonable terms of sale for the whole estate still unsold, and also requesting the Commissioners to intervene as negotiators and arbitrators between themselves and the landlord, stating they are willing to agree to any terms that may be settled by the Commissioners; and whether the Commissioners will accede to the tenants' request.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received the memorial referred so. They have no present knowledge of the matters complained of, but will have them fully inquired into by their inspector when he visits the estate in connection with the proceedings for sale which have been instituted. The Commissioners will duly consider all the circumstances before sanctioning the sale of the estate.

Disturbance in Dublin at Distraint on Goods of Mr. Patrick O'Carroll.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the proceedings at an auction of coal, seized by the police to defray the fine imposed upon Mr. Patrick O'Carroll, a member of the Dublin Corporation, for having his name printed on his cart as Phadrig O'Cearbhaill, in Irish characters; whether he is aware that a crowd was attracted by handbills denouncing the Government, and declaring that the proceeds of the sale would be devoted to the part payment of the salaries of the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant and Sir Antony Macdonnell, and that the police had to be called in to quell the disorder; and whether proceedings will be instituted against the persons who organised this disturbance.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) Until this Question was put down my attention was not called to the proceedings referred to. The hon. Member will, I am sure, be delighted to learn that the disorder on the occasion referred to was not of a serious nature. It appears that some persons interrupted the proceedings, and that the police, at the request of the auctioneer, ejected the offenders. The police authorities inform me that, in their opinion, no further proceedings are necessary.

Alleged Boycotting of Mr. John Dowd, of Ryefield, County Roscommon.

MR. LONSDALE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. John Dowd, of Ryefield, Elphin, county Roscommon, has complained to the police that he has been boycotted by direction of the United Irish League, and that Mr. Timothy Rorke, J.P., the United League Treasurer for North Roscommon, who is employed by the Congested Districts Board, had threatened to make it hot for him; and what action he proposes to take in this matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the police authorities that Mr. Dowd has not complained to the police that he has been boycotted, or that Mr. Rorke had threatened to make it hot for him. The police state that, as a matter of fact, Mr. Dowd has not been boycotted, and has not, so far as they are aware, suffered any inconvenience. Mr. Rorke is not in the employment of the Congested Districts Board, though he was temporarily employed for a short period, about fifteen days, last spring in placing grazing stock on the Board's lands. No action is called for in the matter.

Sale of Farms on Earl Fitzwilliam's Estate.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a number of tenants who refuse to purchase their farms from Earl Fitzwilliam, on the ground that the price demanded is excessive, have been notified by the Estates Commissioners, through Mr. Fottrell, solicitor, that they intend to exclude those tenants from the sale of the estate unless they write by return post agreeing to purchase on the landlord's terms; and, if so, will he make inquiries into the action of the Commissioners in these cases.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that in a few cases the tenants refused to accept the terms offered, upon the ground that these terms were excessive. In such cases the Commissioners required their inspector to state whether, in his opinion, the vendor's terms were reasonable, and the inspector's report was in the affirmative. As the tenants still refused to sign purchase agreements on these terms their holdings were excluded from the "declared" estate, upon the vendor's solicitor giving an undertaking that, as far as possible, these holdings would be included in a subsequent estate if terms acceptable to the tenants could be arranged. This course was taken in order to complete the proceedings for sale, affecting 1,055 tenants, upon that portion of the several estates for which agreements had been signed. The Commissioners have no information as to what communications passed between the solicitors for the vendor and the tenants. In such cases as these it is the practice to inform the tenants that their holdings have been excluded, but that an opportunity would be subsequently afforded them of coming to terms with their landlord, in which case their holdings would be included in another estate.

Payment of Cost by Patients obtaining Poor Law Medical Relief.

MR. MEAGHER (Kilkenny, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is competent for boards of guardians at their meeting subsequent to the admission of patients to the infirmaries or hospitals under their control, who seek relief by way of loan, to fix the amount which the patient or patients shall pay per day for their maintenance and attendance while in the hospital or infirmary; and, if not, whether, seeing that at the present time such patients contribute but a fraction of the cost which they bear on the rates, he will introduce a Bill granting boards of guardians the power to fix the rates of charges to patients who seek relief by way of loan, so as to include, in the case of patients who are able to pay, a part of the cost of medical and nursing attendance, and the actual cost of the dietary.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) In the opinion of the Local Government Board the answer to the first part of the Question is that the guardians have only a limited power under Section 4 of The Poor Relief (Ireland) Act, 1862, whereby they are empowered to charge patients in hospitals or infirmaries a portion of their cost, but such portion is in no case to exceed the average of the general cost of maintenance, medical and surgical treatment, in such hospitals or infirmaries. The Government are not prepared to consider the suggestion contained in the latter part of the Question pending the presentation of the Report of the Poor Law Reform Commission.

Maintenance and Patients Treated in the Kilkenny District Lunatic Asylum.

MR. MEAGHER: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the number of patients treated in the Kilkenny District Lunatic Asylum for the year 1897, and the total cost for the same, including maintenance and establishment charges, showing how much was raised by local rates and how much received from Government grants, and the average weekly cost per head in that year, and the details of the same information for the year 1905.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) In the calendar year 1897 the average number of patients in this asylum was 388; the total cost, including maintenance and establishment charges, was £9,127, of which £4,400 was raised by local rates and £3,212 received from Government grants; and the net average weekly cost per patient was 7s. 6d. The corresponding figures for the financial year ending 31st March, 1905, were, average number of patients, 452; total cost, £12,997; raised by local rates, £7,876; received from Government grants, £4,552; net average weekly cost, 8s. 10d.

Weekly Tenants and Payment of Rates on Cottages.

MR. MEAGHER: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware of the burden placed on the ratepayers of a number of unions in Ireland by the inability of weekly tenants of cottages to pay the rates levied on them; and whether, seeing that the rates on those cottages prior to the operation of the Local Government (Ireland) Act of 1898 were borne by the landlords, he will see his way to have that Act amended in order to revert to the old system, and so prevent the other ratepayers from having to meet increased taxation.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*)—I beg to refer to the replies which I gave to similar Questions on April 4th and May 16th,† when I stated fully the reasons why the Government are not prepared to introduce legislation on this subject.

Allocation of Grants for the Teaching of Irish.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the lack of prosperity in some parts of Ireland, he will discontinue the allocation of grants towards the teaching of Irish in national schools, with the object of securing more time being spent on learning other languages, seeing that a section of Irishmen object to contribute towards the cost of teaching Irish; and whether he can see his way to constitute the Irish language as a special subject, to be taught out of national school hours, and paid for by those parents desirous of having their children taught it.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*)—It is not proposed to discontinue the allocation of grants for the teaching of Irish, nor does the Irish Government believe that it would be possible, as the hon. Member seems to suggest, to introduce the general teaching of Greek, German, and other languages in Irish primary schools. Neither would it be an easy matter to give effect at the same time to all the wishes of every particular section of Irishmen. The suggestion in the last paragraph of the Question does not appear to be practicable.

Case of James Ward and the Castlebar Urban District Council.

MR. LONSDALE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that James Ward, who was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment at the Sligo winter assizes, for having published a seditious libel against the Government and trying to prevent persons from enlisting in the Army and Navy, has been liberated three months in advance of the termination of his sentence; whether he is aware that James Ward, since his incarceration, has been unanimously co-opted a member of the Castlebar Urban Council; and whether in view of the fact that this man has been imprisoned for this offence, he will take steps to have the appointment cancelled.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clv., 476; clvii., 482.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) James Ward has been released, by order of the Lords Justices, two and a half months before the termination of his sentence of nine months. He has, I am informed, been co-opted, but not unanimously, a member of the Castlebar Urban District Council. He does not appear to be disqualified from acting upon the district council. The Irish Government have no power to cancel appointments of this nature.

Evicted Tenants in County Clare.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will, in the interest of public peace and good feeling, see that the evicted tenants in county Clare are dealt with as soon as possible, and whether he can state the total number of Clare evicted tenants, and what steps are being taken for their restoration to holdings, so that their present state of idleness and suffering may be terminated.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have deputed one of their inspectors to inquire into the cases of the 217 evicted tenants who have lodged applications for reinstatement in county Clare. The inspector's inquiries will obviously take some time, but the matter will be pressed forward with as much despatch at possible.

Irish Intermediate Education Board Rules.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland when will the new rules of the Intermediate Education Board for Ireland be laid upon the Table of the House.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The rules were laid upon the Table on Friday last. They are substantially the rules approved in 1905 for the year 1906. The only changes which have been made are, I understand, a few minor changes consequent upon the alteration of the programme as regards some of the subjects. These changes do not in any way affect Irish as a subject of examination.

Government Board and Resolultion by Parliament.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether there is any precedent for a board, either in England or Ireland, deriving its authority and its finances from the Exchequer, refusing to adopt a Resolution unanimously agreed to by Parliament.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am not aware that there is any precedent, but I am also not aware that the case has arisen.

Revision Court for Carrickmore.

MR. MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he has received a Resolution, recently passed by the Omagh Board of Guardians, in reference to the necessity of a revision court at Carrickmore, in the Parliamentary Division of Mid-Tyrone; is he aware that householders, in order to get their names on the register of voters, have in many cases to travel ten, twelve and fourteen miles to the town of Sixmilecross, mostly on foot; and whether, in view of the value attached to electoral rights by the people of Tyrone, he will take steps to establish at Carrickmore a revision court in time for the Autumn revision.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Resolution in question has been received, and the necessary inquiries are being made with the object of submitting the matter for the decision of the Lord-Lieutenant in Council.

Local Government (Ireland) Act—Suggested Repeal of Clause 6.

Mr. MEAGHER: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the effect on the ratepayers of Ireland of the operation of Clause 6 of the Local Government (Ireland) Amending Act of 1902; and whether, seeing that the existence of this clause in the Act has given dissatisfaction to all the Poor Law unions of Ireland, and also so the officers of these bodies, he will see his way to have the clause repealed, or, as an alternative, will recommend the Treasury to accede to the request of the Poor Law Association of Ireland by giving an equivalent grant to the Poor Law unions of Ireland in aid of salaries.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Local Government Board have received from some unions requests for the repeal of the section quoted, but it is not the fact that the operations of the section has given dissatisfaction to all unions. I have already stated that it is not the intention of the Government as at present advised to take steps for the repeal of this section, and I would refer the hon. Member to my replies to Questions on the subject put by the hon. Member for South Cork on the 12th March† and 23rd May.‡

Local Government (Ireland) Act—Suggested Repeal of Section 83.

Mr. MEAGHER: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the difficulties in the way of the efficient working of the Parliamentary Voters' Acts, by the existence of Section 83 (7) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act of 1898; whether he is aware that the majority of the Irish Poor Law unions boards have, at repeated times, urged on the Irish Government the necessity for repealing this section in favour of having the work and the work under the Jurors Acts performed as heretofore by all clerks of unions; and whether he can see his way to have this section repealed.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) By the enactment referred to, the duty of preparing voters and jurors' lists was transferred from clerks of unions to secretaries of county councils. In the opinion of the Local Government Board, this enactment does not hinder but facilitates the efficient working of the Parliamentary Voters and Jurors Acts. It is the fact that a number of boards of guardians have from time to time asked for the repeal of the section in question, but it was found that there was a consensus of opinion on the part of county court judges and revising barristers in favour of the continuance of the present system, and in these circumstances it is not proposed to take steps for the repeal of the section.

Irish Boards of Guardians and Tenders for Supplies.

Mr. MEAGHER: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in considering contracts for the supplies for workhouses and dispensaries, boards of guardians are allowed to use their discretion to accept any tender which they decide on, irrespective as to whether the same may be the lowest or not, if, in their opinion, or in the opinion of the majority of the board, they are doing the best for the interests of the ratepayers; and whether it is only in the case of district council work that reasons are to be given to the Local Government Board as to why tenders other than the lowest were accepted.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) Boards of guardians are, in the exercise of their discretion, at liberty to accept the lowest or any tender for the supply of goods to the workhouse, except in the case of medicines and medical and surgical appliances. In order to obtain recoupment from the local taxation account of portion of the cost of these latter articles, boards of guardians must, before accepting a tender, other than the lowest, obtain the approval of the Local Government Board. In every case boards of guardians must be prepared to satisfy the auditor that their action in accepting a tender other than the lowest was in the best interest of the ratepayers. Section 18 of The Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1902, requires a rural district council which accepts a tender other than the lowest, for the execution of a public work, to give the reasons on a prescribed form for the non-acceptance of the lower tender or tenders. The reasons must be produced to the auditor of the Local Government Board.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cliii., 876.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clvii., 1287.

Extra Police at Loughrea.

MR. DUFFY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many extra policemen are stationed in Loughrea at present arising out of the eviction of Mr. Martin Ward; how many are employed protecting the men in possession of Mr. Ward's premises; is any share of the cost to be borne by the landlord, Lord Clanricarde; and, if not, who will be responsible.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the police authorities that the number of extra policemen at present stationed in Loughrea is eleven. No policemen have been specially detailed for the protection of the caretakers of Mr. Ward's late premises, but this duty is performed by the police generally. The extra policemen at Loughrea belong to the established force of county Galway, and the cost therefore falls on the Parliamentary Vote, and not on local authorities or other persons.

Complaints of the O'Hara Tenants.

MR. DUFFY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what steps have been taken by the Estates Commissioners to investigate the complaint made in the memorial forwarded to them by a body of the O'Hara tenantry, near Gort; and will he state how the matter stands.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have entered into communication with the agent of the estate in question upon the subject of the petition which they have received from the occupiers of small holdings in the district. No proceedings for the sale of the estate have yet been instituted before them.

Changes in the Irish Intermediate Education Programme.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that the House of Commons unanimously agreed on May 21st,† to certain changes in the intermediate programme for the year 1907, and that these changes created no difficulty in administration, he will explain why the Board took one month before they could give a definite reply to the matter; whether he will secure the publication of the minutes of the meeting of the Board at which this matter was discussed; and will he state which of the proposed changes causes difficulty, and in what way it does so.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) There has been no avoidable delay on the part of the Board or of the Executive in dealing with this matter. Any delay that has occurred has been due to the difficulties inherent in the case, and to the necessity of summoning members of the Board from various parts of Ireland to the meeting convened to consider the matter. It was found necessary to take the opinion of the Law Officers as to the effect of the Resolution of the House upon the rules submitted, and His Excellency was advised that the rules as a whole had been rendered null and void by the passing of the Resolution, and that a new set of rules required to be submitted. This opinion was communicated to the Intermediate Education Board, who thought that, considering the difficulties and intricacy of the matter, they could not, within the time necessary to enable rules to become effective, frame new rules which would adequately meet the case. They have therefore submitted the rules already approved of for 1906 as rules for 1907, and these, with the formal sanction of the Lord-Lieutenant, have now been laid on the Table. The publication of the minutes of the Board would be very unusual and, in the opinion of the Government, not to the public interest, nor has the Irish Government any power to require the Board to produce the minutes of its proceedings. Even if I possessed the necessary technical acquaintance with the subject it would be impossible within the limits of an Answer to explain the difficulties which have led the Board, as they inform me, to postpone for the present year an attempt to reconstruct these rules.

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†See (4) *Debates* clvii., 1072

Turbary on Lord Orkney's Estate at Castle Iney.

Mr. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the tenants on Lord Orkney's estate, at Castle Iney, county Tipperary, signed their purchase agreements on the understanding that the turbary was to be divided equally amongst them, and that the solicitor acting for the tenants, Mr. Ryan, received a letter from the solicitor for the landlord, Mr. Lyster, previous to the signing of agreements, stating that the turbary was to be sold to the Estates Commissioners for the purpose mentioned, and will he say if this turbary has been acquired by the Estates Commissioners, is it to be distributed evenly amongst the purchasing tenants, and what steps have been taken since the negotiations were completed in 1904 to distribute this portion of the estate amongst the tenants.

Answered by Mr. Bryce.) The Estates Commissioners inform me that proceedings for the sale of this estate are before them, but that the property has not yet been inspected on their behalf. The matters of fact alleged in the Question will be inquired into when the inspection is being made, but the Commissioners have no present knowledge on the subject. No part of the property has been acquired by the Estates Commissioners.

Report of the Estates and Land Commissioners.

Mr. P. A. McHUGH (Sligo, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Report of the Estates Commissioners for the year ended March 31st, 1906, has yet been issued; if not, can he say when it is likely to be available for Members; and can he say when the Land Commission Report for the same year will be issued.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they anticipate that their Report will be ready for presentation by the middle of next month, and the Land Commission that their annual Report will be completed by about the same time. Such delay as has occurred in completing the Report of the Estates Commissioners is, they inform me, largely due to the diversion of much of the time of their staff to the preparation of Answers to Questions put in this House. My recollection, however, is that this does not, however, in any way refer to Questions put by the hon. Member, whose Questions have not, according to my recollection, unduly occupied the time of the Commissioners or of any Irish Department.

Grant towards Improvement of Kinvarra Harbour.

Mr. DUFFY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to a Resolution passed by the Galway County Council at its meeting on the 18th instant, wherein disapproval is expressed of the action of the Department of Agriculture in withholding the payment of their promised contribution of £1,100 towards the improvement of Kinvarra Harbour; and whether, in view of the necessity of completing the improvements to the harbour and the extension of the pier, he will take steps to see that the undertaking arrived at, as between the county council and the Department of Agriculture, is carried out with the least possible delay.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Resolution referred to has been received. The proposed harbour works at Kinvarra are in two sections. In one of these, the cost of which is £1,900, the works are already in progress under the Marine Works Act, £1,100 having been provided under that Act, and £800 by the county council. The other scheme, which involves a cost of £1,600, consists of an extension proposed by the county council to which the Department of Agriculture proposes to contribute £1,100. The Department have no desire to withdraw their offered contribution, but a legal difficulty has arisen as to the powers of the county council to contribute their share of the cost. This matter is, at present, receiving the earnest attention of the Government.

South Derby Election—Assault Case.

Mr. FLYNN (Cork, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the proceedings in the case of

George M'Cullough and William Foster, in connection with the South Derry election, to recover damages for assault and battery, tried in Dublin before Justice Kenny and a jury, and in which plaintiff obtained a verdict for £20 damages; is he aware that the learned judge commented strongly on the conduct of the local police in not prosecuting Foster for this assault; and will he say what steps do the constabulary authorities intend to take in regard to Constable Mason and the other policemen.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) My attention had not been called to this case, but I have now received a report from the police authorities and have seen a newspaper report containing the comments of the learned judge upon the hearing of the civil action. It appears that the assault in question was witnessed by two policemen, who at once interfered to prevent further assaults. I am informed that it is not the practice for the police to prosecute in such cases unless the assault is of a serious nature or is one involving the general peace of the locality; and if the police have any doubt upon the latter point, they take the directions of the magistrates at petty sessions, under 25 and 26 Vic. Cap. 50, Sec. 9. This was done in the present case, and the bench of magistrates decided that, as a civil action was pending, it was better that the police should not interfere. Mr. M'Cullough himself had requested the police not to prosecute, as he intended to take a civil action. The learned judge was probably not informed of this fact. As the police followed the usual course in this case, the Inspector-General does not intend to take any steps.

Belfast Prison Governor.

MR. McKILLOP (Armagh, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland can he state what is the age of the present governor of the Belfast prison; how long has he been in the service, and does the sixty-five rule apply to his case; can he say how many prisons he has been governor in before his appointment to Belfast; and how many escapes and attempted escapes have taken place in each, during the term of his governorship.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed that the Governor of Belfast prison is sixty-one years of age. He has been in the prison service for forty years. The rule as to retirement at sixty-five does not apply in his case, as he is one of the existing officers who were transferred to the service of the general Prisons Board under the Prisons Act of 1877. He has been governor of three prisons besides Belfast, namely, Tralee, Limerick, and Clonmel. One escape and one attempted escape occurred during his governorship of Tralee prison, and one escape during his governorship of Limerick Prison.

Belfast Prison—Confidential Reports.

MR. McKILLOP: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is usual for the Prisons Board, in regard to charges against warders, to receive secret Reports from the governors of prisons in such cases; if not, is he aware of any cases in which such has been done; whether the Prisons Board ever consider or base their decision on such Reports, without disclosing the nature of the same to the warder concerned; and whether any such secret Reports have been received from the Governor of Belfast prison during the past twelve months; and, if so, will such be laid upon the Table of the House.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The General Prisons Board inform me that they continuously receive from prison governors, including the Governor of Belfast Prison, confidential reports upon matters affecting prison administration and discipline. Warders are afforded full opportunity of meeting any charges which may be brought against them. The evidence in support of the charges is taken in their presence, and they may cross-examine the witnesses and bring up witnesses in their own defence. The General Prison Board do not, in any such case, base their decision on confidential reports, but on the admitted or proved facts of the case. It would be quite contrary to the established practice, and not in the interests of the public service, to lay upon the Table confidential reports received by the Prisons Board from their officers.

Glenties Land Dispute.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the proceedings of the landlord in a case in which the Marquess Conygham is plaintiff and Major Johnstone, of New Eden, Glenties, in the county of Donegal, is defendant, in which, at the last petty sessions at Ardara, on 12th June, a decree for the possession of three farms, Magherymore, Mullynigh, and Oisk, all under one rental, was granted, a decree in ejectment for non-payment of rent having been previously obtained, and to the magistrate's opinion that the application could not be refused as the six months' period of redemption had expired, notwithstanding that the defendant made an offer in gold of full rent and costs, which was refused, although Captain Crosbie, the resident magistrate, strongly urged its acceptance by the landlord's solicitor; and whether, having regard to the fact that the decree for possession was given on an undertaking on behalf of the landlord that the eviction would not be carried out for a month, and that now, in violation of that undertaking, preparations are being made for its immediate execution, he will refuse to lend the forces of the Crown in this case.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed that the facts are substantially as stated in the Question. The decree which was granted was, however, not against Major Johnstone but against James Boyle, who was originally a subtenant to Major Johnstone, and was, at the date of the decree, caretaker of the holdings. It is, I understand, the fact that the resident magistrate suggested the acceptance of the proposed payment in the interests of peace, but the plaintiff's solicitor stated that he had no power to accept the offer. I have no information as to any undertaking that the execution of the decree should be delayed for a month, nor have I any information that preparations for its execution are now being made; but in any event, it is hardly necessary for me to remind the hon. and learned Member that I have no power whatever to withhold the forces of the Crown in cases of this kind.

Clonamirin Estate Sale.

MR. DUFFY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the proposed sale of a large estate, situated in Clonamirin, Mount Shannon, county Galway, in sections, to four or five tenants; whether he is aware that close on forty small tenancies, of an average valuation of less than £5, exist in the neighbourhood; and whether the Estates Commissioners will institute special inquiry into the circumstances attending the sale of the John F. George and James Wakely estate before sanctioning a sale which, if carried out, will stereotype the poverty of the congested occupiers in the district.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that in the short time since notice of this Question was given they have been unable to trace any proceedings as having been instituted before them in respect of the estate referred to, but they will have a further investigation made, and I will apprise the hon. Member of the result.

Belfast Army Meat Supplies.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that dissatisfaction has been expressed respecting the quality of the meat supplied to the troops stationed in Belfast; and whether he can state the firm to whom the contract was given.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) No complaint has reached the War Office regarding the quality of meat supplied under the Belfast contract, which is held by F. Boddy, of Liverpool.

Royal Small Arms Factory, Birmingham

MR. C. DUNCAN (Barrow-in-Furness): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state how many of the men recently employed at the Royal Small Arms Factory, Birmingham, have been thrown out of employment owing to the transference of this factory to a private company; and whether, in view of the understanding that no man should be discharged, and the promise given by the Government that 25 per cent. of the orders to be given out to private contractors should be sent to this factory, he will say what action the Government intend to take in order to prevent the discharge of the workmen.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The condition of transfer alluded to was that preference of employment by the purchasing company was to be given to men employed by the Government at the factory at the time of transfer. We understand that this condition of the agreement is being fulfilled, and that all men who were so employed at that date are still employed at the factory.

Crimean Veteran's Record.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the prosecution, at Killarney, on the 18th June, 1906, of Cornelius Brosnihan for begging; whether he is aware that this man was a soldier in the 32nd Regiment, and served through the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny, and was also presented with the medal of the Royal Humane Society for life-saving; and whether he can do anything to relieve this distressed old soldier and save him from poverty in his old age.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) This man was discharged from the Army with ignominy, and with a very bad character. This is not considered to be a case deserving a compassionate allowance.

Natal Natives and the Kimberley Mines.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Natal natives captured as rebels are being sentenced and sent to work in the Kimberley mines; whether he would inform the House what are the terms of contract which the Natal Government has made with the De Beers Company in respect to these rebels; and whether His Majesty's Government propose to make any representation to the Natal Government on the subject.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) I can add nothing to my previous Answers upon this subject except that I am confident that there is no contract in existence of the kind suggested, and that we have telegraphed to ask for information as to the facts.

Transvaal Trade Routes.

MR. MOLTENO (Dumfriesshire): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what have been the respective proportions of the trade of the Transvaal, in tonnage, carried *via* the ports of the Cape, Natal, and Delagoa Bay, respectively, in each year since the *modus vivendi* came into force; what was the proportion carried *via* the same ports in the last complete year before the war; and whether he is aware that the trade of the ports of the Cape and Natal is languishing, while the port of Delagoa Bay is stated to be so congested that the warehouses are all full, and goods are being stored in the open.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The hon. Member's Question is understood to refer to commercial sea-borne traffic imported through the coast ports to the Transvaal. Statistics, either before the war or later, enabling a full Answer to be given are not available, but it would appear that this traffic during the period December, 1903, to May, 1905, was divided in the proportion of about 44 per cent. to Delagoa Bay, 40 per cent. to Natal, and 16 per cent. to the Cape. I have no official information to the effect of the last part of the Question.

Australian Tinned Meats.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that, owing to the system of inspection of cattle before slaughter in Australia, there has been no complaint in reference to Australian tinned meats; and whether this will be borne in mind by the Government in view of the necessity which may arise for the purchase of tinned provisions.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) I understand that there is a very careful inspection of cattle before slaughter in the various States of Australia and in New Zealand, and I am not aware that any complaint has been made in regard to tinned meat imported from those Colonies. Very little, if any, tinned meat is imported at present from Australia, but as regards the imports from New Zealand, the Secretary of State recently, at the request of the Colonial Government, drew the attention of the various Government Departments concerned in the matter to the fact that all frozen and tinned meats sent from that Colony are subject to minute inspection under stringent conditions carried out by duly qualified inspectors.

Russian Treatment of Jews.

MR. STRAUS (Tower Hamlets, Mile End): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can give the House any information on the unsettled state of affairs in Russia; and whether he could consult the French and German Ambassadors in reference to sending a joint note protesting against the treatment of the Jews in Russia on humanitarian, not religious, grounds.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The Answer to both Questions is in the negative. For reasons which have already been given, His Majesty's Government cannot adopt the course advocated.

Solvency of Insurance Companies.

MR. FIELD: To ask the President of the Board of Trade, whether he will consider the advisability of establishing an Insurance State Department with Government auditors to investigate and report on the solvency of all British, Colonial, American, and foreign insurance companies transacting business in the United Kingdom.

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*) As at present advised, I have no intention of introducing legislation of the nature suggested. Certain questions affecting the interests of British policy-holders in foreign and Colonial life insurance companies transacting business in the United Kingdom are now being considered by a Committee of the House of Lords.

Dingwall and Cromarty Light Railway.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will state what progress has been made with the Dingwall and Cromarty Light Railway?

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*) I have again communicated with both the railway companies concerned in this matter, and I am informed that since the date of my hon. friend's previous Question of the 29th March last,† the working survey of the line has proceeded continuously.

Blasting Accidents in the Channel Islands.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state the number of accidents due to blasting and other operations during the past five years in the Channel Islands; and what inquiries are instituted when such accidents have a fatal termination?

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I have communicated with the Lieutenant Governors of Jersey and Guernsey, and have received the following information:—No accident due to blasting, either fatal or non-fatal, is known to have occurred in Jersey during the past five years. If such an accident happened and had a fatal termination, proceedings termed "Levées de corps," which correspond to a coroner's inquest, would immediately be held by the "vicomte" on a warrant issued by the bailiff. In Guernsey and Alderney there have been, respectively, five and three fatal accidents during the same period. No official record is kept of blasting accidents which do not end fatally. In the case of a fatal accident, an inquest is held in Guernsey by the Royal Court under the presidency of the bailiff, in Alderney by the Court of Alderney, under the presidency of the judge.

Cabman's Licence Suspension.

MR. STEADMAN (Finsbury, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case of a cabman who, on the 15th of May, was arrested for being drunk in the Harrow Road at 12.30 a.m., and was fined on the next morning 4s. or four days, at the Marylebone Police Court, and to the fact that during the hearing it came out that he was a cab driver, badge 16,872, and that his licence expired on the 14th of June, and that when he applied for its renewal he was told that it would be suspended for two years; and, if so, will he say under what Act or regulation the Chief Commissioner took this action; and whether, as the man was not driving or in charge of a cab at the time of his arrest, he will take steps to see that the man's licence is renewed as soon as possible.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cliv., 1542.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) Yes, Sir. The driver in question is a man of intemperate habits. It was after his fifth conviction, and after repeated warnings, that his licence was refused him. It will not again be granted except upon proof that he has become a sober man. The action of the Commissioner of Police was taken under the London Hackney Carriages Act, 1843, Section 8, and this exercise of his power, has been upheld by the High Court (see 28 J.P. 438). I see no ground whatever for interfering with the Commissioner's discretion.

H.M.S. "Renown."

Mr. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the first class battleship "Renown," which has for some months been without an important part of her fighting equipment, has now had her guns and ammunition returned to her; whether he can state for how long the first class battleship "Ramillies" will be in dockyard hands owing to the recent collision; and also afford similar information about the first class battleship "Prince of Wales," which was brought home on account of the breakdown of her main engines.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The portion of the secondary armament of the "Renown," alluded to, is ready for shipment at short notice. The other portions of the Question cannot be answered, as the times of completion have not yet been reported.

Admiralty Clerks.

Mr. J. M. ROBERTSON (Northumberland, Tyneside): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the fact that all of the redundant second division clerks now serving in the Admiralty have served in that department for periods varying from nearly four to seven and a half years, and of the effect upon their position of transfer to other offices, he will arrange that no further transfer shall take place, and that all the clerks in question shall be absorbed into the establishment as opportunity occurs.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) By Clause 11 of the Order in Council, dated 29th November 1898, all redundant clerks are liable to be transferred without reference to their age or the amount of their salary. By Treasury circular, dated 27th August, 1896, No. 12,613, the seniority of a clerk of the second division depends on his length of service in the division as a whole, and not in any particular Department. The question of retaining such of the clerks as have a prospect of being absorbed within a reasonable time will be considered.

New Mall Roadway.

Mr. STEADMAN: To ask the First Commissioner of Works, the cause of the delay in opening up the roadway through the Mall to Charing Cross, in view of the inconvenience caused to the public generally, and more especially to those going Citywards.

(*Answered by Mr. Harcourt.*) It was decided by the late Government and the last Parliament, that the entrance from the Mall to Charing Cross should be by archways through the new Admiralty block, which is in course of construction. Until this building is completed it will be impossible to open the new roadway.

Campbeltown Mails.

Mr. YOUNGER (Ayr Burghs): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that mails from Machrihanish and Southend reach Campbeltown every morning except Sunday about 7.15; that the local letters for Campbeltown are not delivered till three or four o'clock in the afternoon of the same day, and too late to permit of any reply by the outgoing mail to the places mentioned; whether, as inconvenience is caused by this arrangement, he can grant a morning delivery of these letters in Campbeltown.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I will cause inquiry to be made in regard to the matter, and will inform the hon. Member of the result.

Enniskillen Learner's Pay.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that a qualified male learner at Enniskillen, after being in the service two and a half years, is only in receipt of six shillings per week, whilst another learner, with less service, has been placed on full pay since April last; and whether he will explain the reason for this difference.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I will make inquiry and communicate the result to the hon. Member.

Letter Collections.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the Postmaster-General whether the Post Office letter carriers, when proceeding on their rounds collecting letters from the pillar boxes, are precluded by the regulations from accepting letters to be posted from passers by; and if so, whether he will consider the advisability of altering such instructions for the convenience of those of the public who do not reside in the immediate vicinity of a post office or a pillar box, but near the road used by the letter carrier.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) Rural postmen are allowed to collect letters from the public except in the immediate vicinity of a post office or a letter box; but the circumstances in towns are not such as to admit of this facility being given. Collections in towns have to fit closely to the despatches, and to allow the public to hand letters to a postman in a town would be to risk delay in the correspondence generally. Moreover, letter boxes in towns are much nearer together than in rural districts.

Central Telegraph Office Staff.

MR. SEAVERNS (Lambeth, Brixton): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he will state the number of telegraphists attached to the Central Telegraph Office, who are at the present time loaned to the engineer-in-chief's department for the purpose of assisting in clerical and other work.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The number of telegraphists belonging to the Central Telegraph Office who are at present attached to the engineer-in-chief's department for temporary duty is nineteen.

Diocesan Education Inspectors.

MR. PIKE PEASE: To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he can make any statement as to how far the suggested repeal of the Education Act of 1870 would affect the position of diocesan inspectors

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Board of Education have no relations with diocesan inspectors. The latter are not officials of any education authorities. It is, therefore, impossible for me to say how the position of such persons will be affected, if at all, by the Education Bill, or by the repeal of the few clauses of The Education Act, 1870, that are affected by the Bill.

Poplar Schools at Hutton.

MR. PIKE PEASE: To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he can state the exact amount that has been spent on the Poplar schools at Hutton, Essex, to date; and whether the accommodation provided is for 600 children.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) My right hon. friend has asked me to reply to this Question. The total amount sanctioned in respect of the provision of these schools, including the cost of the site, is £156,545. I am not able to state the exact amount which has been spent on them. The schools are intended to accommodate 624 children.

Port of London—Inspection of Tinned Foods.

MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will consider the advisability of taking measures to give effect to the opinion expressed by the Sanitary Committee of the Port of London that tinned articles of food should be subjected to a proper system of inspection before they are exported to the United Kingdom.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I am giving consideration to the measures which should be taken so as to secure the object which the hon. Member has in view.

Admiralty Clerks.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that authority has been given for the appointment of 151 temporary hired accountant clerks in the Accountant-General's department of the Admiralty, for the performance of duties of a permanent nature, and that the work has previously been performed by established clerks, who have passed competitive and medical examinations and hold Civil Service certificates of competency, he will state what justification exists for this departure from the spirit of the Order in Council of the 4th June, 1870, which established open competition as the general rule for admission to His Majesty's Civil Service.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) As I explained in my Answer given to the hon. Member for the North Division of Camberwell on the 27th March last,† there are justifications of general expediency and precedent for these appointments, and power is given by Clause 8 of the Order in Council in question to withdraw appointments from the list of those filled by open competition.

Customs Inspectors.

MR. H. H. MARKS: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that on the recent retirement of the inspector of the outdoor department of the Customs in London, an inspector was brought from Liverpool to London, a surveyor was moved from Glasgow to Liverpool, and another surveyor from London to Glasgow, to fill the resulting vacancies, entailing a cost of nearly £1,000; and will he explain why the vacant inspectorship was not filled by a London man, and the resulting vacancies by London men who were entitled to promotion.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) It is the case that a recent vacancy of inspector in London was filled by the transfer of an inspector from Liverpool, but that transfer was at the officer's own request and expense. The resulting vacancy of inspector having been offered to and refused by a London surveyor, was filled by the promotion of a first-class surveyor at Glasgow, and a second-class surveyor in London was promoted to the first-class surveyorship at Glasgow. The cost to the Crown of these two removals is not likely to exceed £100. Vacancies of inspector are filled by the promotion of the most suitable officer from among the general body, irrespective of the particular port at which he may be stationed.

Denatured Alcohol.

MR. MOND (Chester): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the fact that a Bill allowing the use of denatured alcohol, free from revenue tax, in the arts and manufactures was recently passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate House of the United States of America; and whether he will take steps to expedite the passing of the Bill introduced by him on this subject.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) My attention has been called to the United States legislation referred to. I recognise the desirability of making the changes in the law of the United Kingdom, which are proposed in the Revenue Bill, as soon as possible, and I will do what I can to secure the passing of the Bill this year.

Jute Cultivation in Bengal.

MR. MOND: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the increase in the price of jute, owing to the shortage in supply, whereby the price of bags and other products made from jute has been very seriously affected to the detriment of trade in this country; and whether, in view of these circumstances, the Government will take steps to encourage a greater cultivation of jute.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cliv., 1075.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I understand that the shortage is due to a great and rapid increase of demand, as the area under jute and the yield have steadily increased. In the districts of Eastern Bengal in which the plant is grown its cultivation has extended to soils not altogether suitable for it. The improvement of the crop and the introduction of the plant into other parts of India are engaging the careful attention of the Government of India and of local governments, and experiments are in progress. An experienced agricultural chemist has been added as a jute specialist to the staff of the Agricultural Department of Bengal, and action has been taken on his recommendation that cultivation should be tried in the Godaveri delta, in the Madras Presidency, and in other similar tracts.

Bengal and Bombay Civil Service Pension Funds.

MR. HART-DAVIES (Hackney, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for India what were the amounts of the funds transferred to Government when the administration of the Bengal and Bombay Civil Service Provident and Pension Funds was taken over by the Government; and whether a separate account has since been kept of the receipts and disbursements of those funds, or whether they have been merged in the general finances of the Indian Government.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The balance of the Bengal and Bombay Funds, at the time of their transfer to the Government amounted (at 2s. a rupee) to £1,908,469 and £815,345 respectively. The receipts and disbursements of the funds since the transfer have been merged in the general finances of the Government of India.

Owen Wynne Estate, County Sligo.

MR. P. A. MCHUGH: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, in regard to the Owen Wynne Estate, county Sligo, of which the sale was completed on the 8th February, 1906, whether he can state the names and addresses of the tenants whose holdings were excluded from the estate for sale; how many holdings were excluded on the ground that they would not afford security for the advances applied for; were all the holdings, for which advances were made, inspected; can he state in terms of years purchase the average price paid for non-judicial, first term, and second term, rents on the estate sold; whether the Estates Commissioners have considered the confusion likely to result from the exclusion of isolated holdings from the estates within which they are situate, and their subsequent inclusion in estates from which they are separated and whether, in regard to the estates sold, any public notice was given locally of the holdings excluded.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissoners inform me that the holdings of fourteen tenants were excluded from the sale of this estate. I am forwarding to the hon. Member the names and addresses of these tenants. In eight of the cases the advances were refused on the ground of insufficient security. In cases outside the zones the holdings were inspected, but there was no inspection in cases within the zones. The average number of years purchase of the rents was: in the case of non-judicial rents, 24·1; first term rents, 22·8; second term rents, 26·6. The Commissioners do not consider that the exclusion of holdings from the estate in which they are situate and their subsequent inclusion in other estates causes any serious confusion. No public notice as to the excluded holdings was given, but notice was given to the tenants concerned.

Imperial Taxation in Ireland.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the number of the population in Ireland in 1851, and the amount of Imperial taxation levied in that year; whether he can state the estimated number of the population, deducting the number of emigrants since the last census and adding on the births to the 31st May, 1906; and also state the amount of Imperial taxation to be levied in Ireland for the year 1906–7.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) According to the census of 1851, the population of Ireland in that year was 6,574,278. I have been unable to ascertain the amount of the Imperial taxation levied in Ireland in 1851, but the amount for 1849, the nearest year for which figures are available, was £4,563,512. Present estimates of population are made quarterly, and the estimated population on the 31st March, 1906, was 4,397,720. The estimated amount of Imperial taxation to be levied in 1906–7 is £8,339,000.

Ardrum Evicted Tenant.

MR. SHEEHAN (Cork County, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether the Estates Commissioners have received a statement of claim for re-instatement from Patrick Mullane, an evicted tenant on the Colthurst Estate, at Ardrum, Inniscarra, county Cork; is the evicted farm at present occupied by a planter named John Buttimer; has he been approached with a view to giving up possession to the evicted tenant; have any negotiations taken place for the sale of this estate; and what steps will be taken in regard to Mullane's claim for re-instatement.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners have received from Patrick Mullane an application for re-instatement, and the matter has been referred to an inspector for inquiry. Pending the receipt of the inspector's report the Commissioners have no information as to the facts of the case.

Irish Teachers.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the number of teachers trained in Irish elementary training colleges who have left Ireland for Great Britain from the beginning of 1900 to the end of 1905, together with the names of the colleges in which they were trained (indicating the number trained in each college); whether he can assign any reason for the departure of those teachers from Ireland; and whether he can also state the total amount expended on the training of those teachers, and say whether the sum so expended has been lost to elementary education in Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that, so far as can be ascertained from their records, the number of teachers trained in Irish elementary training colleges who have left Ireland for Great Britain from the beginning of 1900 to the end of 1905 is 242. The numbers trained in the different training colleges were:—Marlborough Street, 118; St. Patrick's, Drumconda, 18; Our Lady of Mercy, Baggot Street, and Blackrock, 15; Church of Ireland, 29; De la Salle, Waterford, 29; St. Mary's, Belfast, 16; Mary Immaculate, Limerick; 17. The records do not, however, purport to account for all cases, particularly as some teachers who were trained in Ireland and who went to Great Britain directly after their training, have not yet furnished returns of their destinations, and in such cases no information is available. The Commissioners have not sufficient data to enable them to assign a definite cause for the departure of those teachers. The total amount expended on the training of the teachers referred to was about £20,000, including diploma bonuses. It is not possible to say to what extent the sum so expended is lost to elementary education in Ireland, for not only have most of these teachers given service after their training and before leaving for Great Britain in Irish national schools, but many Irish trained teachers, after spending some time in Great Britain, have returned to Ireland and resumed service as national teachers. During the year 1905, twenty-two teachers who had gone to schools in Great Britain returned to Ireland and are again teaching in national schools.

Killaloe Petty Sessions Clerk.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that he was elected to the position by the majority of the magistrates, the Local Government Board will sanction the appointment of Mr. M'Keogh as petty sessions clerk of Killaloe.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) It has been ascertained that Mr. M'Keogh did not receive a majority of valid votes of the magistrates, and the Lord-Lieutenant has therefore been unable to approve of the election. It will be necessary to hold a fresh election

Belfast Police Inquiry—Head Constable Farrell.

Mr. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Constable Shankey, of Leopold Street Barrack, Belfast, made and signed a statement regarding the charges then pending against Head Constable Farrell, and subsequently at the police inquiry, held in connection with these charges, contradicted his former statement; and if, under these circumstancs, he will explain why Constable Shankey was allowed to remain in Belfast; and whether Constable Bradley acted similarly in connection with this case, and, if not, why was he transferred.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Inspector-General informs me that the sworn evidence given by Constable Shankey was in complete accord with his prior written statement of the main point at issue, though there was some variation in regard to details. The Inspector-General saw no reason for ordering the constable's removal from Belfast. Constable Bradley did not act similarly; the reasons for this constable's removal were stated in my reply to a Question put by the hon. Member for South Down on 1st May,† to which I beg to refer the hon. Member.

Housing of Working Classes—Boyle Commissioners' Resolution.

Mr. JAMES O'KELLY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been drawn to a resolution passed by the Boyle Town Commissioners to the effect that, having built houses and added plots of land for workers, under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, they are anxious to sell the same to the occupiers, who have paid their rents punctually for five years, on the lines proposed by the Government in the new Labourers' Bill, and asking the Government to so amend the Bill as to apply this provision to houses and plots provided under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts in small towns, and thus give the workers a freehold in their own land, and liberate funds for further building operations in relief of this class in the Irish towns; and whether he proposes to take any action in connection with the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I beg to refer to my Answers to Questions on this subject put by the hon. Members for East Clare and West Kerry on Tuesday and Thursday last,‡ which have probably escaped the hon. Member's notice.

Irish Taxation.

Mr. MURPHY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland why the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction presented the Return of local contributions out of the rates to Parliament, without stating the total amount of such contributions for the entire country as well as setting them out in detail; whether he can give the total of such contributions for the years dealt with, and also state the amount of all the grants received from other sources by the Department for each of the years mentioned, and the full total of all moneys received by the Department from all sources since its establishment.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Return in question gives the particulars required by the Order of the House. The totals for each county were not demanded, but they may be readily ascertained from the Return. The totals of the figures given in detail in the Return are as follows:—

Year.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.
1900–1 - - -	9,642	12	8
1901–2 - - -	41,201	2	2
1902–3 - - -	45,755	19	8
1903–4 - - -	49,822	13	7
1904–5 - - -	53,259	7	10
1905–6 - - -	53,057	12	11
Gross total for the six years - -	£252,739	8	10

These sums are not grants received by the Department, but are the amounts levied by the local authorities from the rates, and expended locally in carrying out the approved schemes under The Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act, 1899, which are also subsidised by the Department. In reply to the concluding inquiry, I beg to refer the hon. Member to the Appropriation Accounts annually laid before Parliament, which contain statements of all moneys received by the Department each year.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 416–7.

‡ See Columns 46, 47 374–5.

Italian International Congress.

MR. FIELD: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government will make inquiries as to the advisability of sending delegates to assist at the Italian International Congress, with a view to co-operate with other nations in an international endeavour to prevent gambling in futures, options, foodstuffs, cotton, shares, and warrants.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) I have nothing to add to the Answer which I gave to the hon. Member on 3rd April.†

South African Mining Shares.

MR. FIELD: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that the depreciation in South African mining and other shares, amounting in 1905–6 to over £100,000,000, has been due to an organised bear raid on the London, Paris, and Johannesburg Stock Exchanges, and that according to the South African preferences the mining magnates are endeavouring to explain this state of affairs by laying the blame for the collapse on the conduct of the Imperial Government; and, in consideration of the effect of such losses on the economic position of South Africa and the values of funds and other securities, and of the fact that a syndicate has been formed in order to protect the diamond mine shares against similar bear raids, His Majesty's Government intend to take any measures to stop a continuance of these systems of bull and bear financial gambling operations in fictitious shares, with the object of protecting the interests of *bona fide* shareholders.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) I have no information on this Question, but, assuming the facts to be as stated, I am doubtful if any effectual measure could be adopted by the Government in the interest of the shareholders.

Political Pensions.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask the Prime Minister if the Government has any objection to the Bill for the abolition of The Political Pensions Act, 1869.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) My attention has only been directed to this Bill by the hon. and gallant Member's Question, and I have not had an opportunity of consulting my colleagues. It would assist them in coming to a conclusion if the hon. and gallant Gentleman would tell me whether the intention of the Bill is merely to stop the issue of fresh pensions, or at the same time to cancel those already granted.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Naval Officers' Eyesight.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, with a view to the safety of His Majesty's ships and their crews, the Admiralty hold the Commander-in-Chief of a station responsible that cases of defective vision on the part of officers commanding ships are reported to the Admiralty; and whether the officer commanding a ship is in a similar manner held responsible in the case of his officers.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): It is naturally the duty of Commanders-in-Chief and Commanding Officers of ships to report any circumstances affecting the capacity of an officer to perform the duties for which he is responsible, but it has not been considered necessary to specify any particular defect as calling for a special report.

MR. BELLAIRS: Have the Admiralty received any report at all with reference to H.M.S. "Montagu?"

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON asked for notice of the Question.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clv., 339.

Army Rations—Preserved Foods.

Mr. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that boards of guardians all over the country are declining to issue tinned meat to inmates of our workhouses, he will reconsider his refusal to forbid any further issue of preserved food as Army rations to our soldiers in time of peace.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the WAR OFFICE (Mr. Buchanan, Perthshire, E.): Orders have been given to withhold all issues of American brands of preserved meat until the officer dispatched to America to inquire into their character has reported.

Mr. LEA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will permit tins of the preserved food issued to our soldiers from the store in reserve for war purposes, and which are several years old, to be placed in the tea-room of the House of Commons, and allow these tins to be opened so that hon. Members can see the character of the food that has been issued to the Army.

Mr. BUCHANAN: As I have already informed the hon. Member, the issue of American preserved meat is suspended pending the report of our officer, and the Secretary of State thinks it would not be desirable to have the exhibition of tins in the tea-room suggested by the hon. Member.

Mr. LEA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any non-commissioned officers or men have been punished during the last three months for refusing to eat tinned meat served out as rations by the military authorities?

Mr. BUCHANAN: I am not aware of any such case.

Dangerous Ammunition.

*Sir ROBERT HOBART (Hampshire, New Forest): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has received any report of an accident which occurred a few days ago at Pirbright to a young officer, who was shot through the stomach; whether, owing to the similarity of the long blank ammunition and the service ammunition, he has received reports that bullets have been frequently heard overhead at sham fights, with danger to onlookers at royal and other reviews; and whether he will consider the advisability of a return to the short blank ammunition under these circumstances.

Mr. BUCHANAN: No details of this accident have as yet been received at the War Office from the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Aldershot. It has been decided that for manœuvres and field training short blank ammunition only will be used, the long blank being reserved for instructional purposes.

*Sir ROBERT HOBART: May I ask whether the hon. Gentleman is aware that the possibility of stray bullets on field days has made such an impression on the troops that officers have now less trouble in instructing their men in the art of taking cover?

Mr. BUCHANAN: It is with a view to obviate these and other disadvantages which have arisen that this general order has been issued.

British Officers for the Indian Native Army.

*Mr. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the evidence Lord Roberts gave before the South African War Commission, any action has been taken or is contemplated in order to the provision of a sufficient number of British officers for native regiments in the Indian Army in time of war.

Mr. BUCHANAN: An Inter-Departmental Committee which assembled in April last to inquire into the sources of supply of officers for the Indian Army has quite recently issued its Report. This Report is now being considered.

Payment of Soldiers in the Field.

Captain CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether advantage has been taken of experience gained during the late South African campaign to devise a scheme for the payment of men in the field, which will relieve captains of companies from much of the clerical work attendant thereupon, and thus insure that combatant officers will be more free to attend to their executive duties.

MR. BUCHANAN: Yes, Sir. A scheme to this effect has been devised. It is based on the experience gained during the South African campaign.

Army Meat and Foreign Contracts.

MR. McVEIGH (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to a resolution, passed on June 11th by the county council of Donegal, protesting against the change made in the Army meat tender which permits contractors to supply foreign meat killed at the port of disembarkation instead of home-reared meat, which was guaranteed to be used by the late Government some years ago; and will he say whether the Army horses are mainly fed on foreign oats, straw, and hay, and, if so, will he reconsider his decision in the interest of the agriculturist, ratepayers, taxpayers, labourers, and employers of the three kingdoms.

MR. BUCHANAN: My attention has been drawn to this resolution. There is no doubt that considerable quantities of foreign oats and straw are supplied to the Army under contracts, but in the case of oats it would be very difficult to obtain sufficient home grown supplies at reasonable prices. The proposal to limit the supply of forage to British produce would involve an extra expense to the State which I am not prepared to recommend.

South African War—Issues of Firearms to Natives.

MR. BELLOC (Salford, S.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what was the total number of firearms issued to natives in the course of the South African War; and what was the total number of firearms so issued which have, since the peace, been accounted for as returned.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): The Secretary of State has made inquiry of the War Office upon this question, but the records kept by that Department during the Boer War do not appear to have been so extensive and precise upon this subject as upon other matters, and Lord Elgin has not been able to procure the information which the hon. Member desires.

Natal Court-Martial.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can now state if the report of the proceedings of the court-martial which sentenced twelve Natal natives to death is to be laid upon the Table of the House; and whether he can state how many courts-martial are now sitting in Natal, and how many persons are awaiting trial by them.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State has received the following telegram from His Excellency the Governor of Natal. Begins, "I have received following minute from Ministers:—Begins. In consequence of request from Ministers, Press in Natal have, in view of disturbed condition of native mind, refrained from publishing evidence in martial law cases, and Ministers would deprecate publication in England as serving no useful purpose. Ministers, however, have no wish to conceal any of the proceedings, and rather than any such charge should be made against them they would be prepared to agree to publication if His Majesty's Government still consider it necessary." In these circumstances, His Majesty's Government do not, as at present advised, propose to publish the evidence in question; but I should be prepared to give my hon. friend access to it if he so desires. The Secretary of State is not able to state how many courts-martial are now sitting in Natal and how many persons are awaiting trial; but he will inquire.

MR. MYER (Lambeth, N.): May I ask whether there is or was any evidence?

MR. CHURCHILL: Yes, Sir. The evidence is extensive and voluminous, and from what I have seen I am of opinion that it shows the careful and thorough manner in which the trial was conducted.

The "Standard and Diggers News."

*MR. SCOTT (Ashton-under-Lyne): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the premises, plant, and materials of Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce, late proprietors of the *Standard and Diggers News*, of Johannesburg, were, during the South African War, taken possession of by the British military authorities, and used by these authorities for their own purposes for a period of twenty months; that the accounts of the business during this period, as vouched for by the Auditor-General at Pretoria, and subsequently audited by Messrs. Turquand, Young, and Co., of London, show a profit of £24,855 15s. 4d.; that the late Colonial Secretary, in a letter dated March, 1905, stated that Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce were entitled to receive a refund of the profits actually made by the military authorities out of the business carried on in the firms' premises, and through the use of their plant and materials; and will he explain why His Majesty's Government have now offered Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce the sum of £2,500 conditionally upon receiving from them a receipt in full discharge of all liability.

Mr. CHURCHILL: There were two premises of Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce used for nineteen and sixteen months respectively; the account quoted is subject to certain adjustments, and it is not admitted that the profits shown can be finally treated as actual profits. It is the fact that Mr. Lyttelton acqainted Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce in March, 1905, that he considered that they were entitled to the profits made, but they were subsequently informed by Mr. Lyttelton through Sir John Puleston, who had interested himself in the case, that Lord Selborne had very carefully gone into the matter and had come to the conclusion that the proper course was to pay a reasonable rental for their premises as had been done in certain other cases. Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce themselves made their original claim, which was for £9,525, on the basis of rent and not of profits. The offer of £2,500 has been made as the result of a careful investigation by an independent expert as to what would be a fair and reasonable payment in respect of the use of the company's premises and plant by the Transvaal authorities. It is admitted that at first there was some confusion in dealing with the matter locally, and that regrettable delay has arisen thereby.

*Mr. SCOTT: Do I understand that £2,500 was offered to cover rent and the use of plant valued at £20,000? One of these premises let at £300 a month.

Mr. CHURCHILL said the premises were not let at £300 a month during the first month of the military occupation, nor could the profits of a newspaper conducted by the military authorities be balanced against the profits which might be made by a commercial company conducting a newspaper not during a period of war.

Mr. PAUL (Northampton) asked whether Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce had refused an offer of £80,000 for the *Standard and Diggers News* from the mineowners on the Rand, who wanted to use it for their own purposes.

Mr. CHURCHILL: A great many people lost a great deal of money in the South African War.

In reply to Mr. LEHMANN (Leicestershire, Market Harborough)—

Mr. CHURCHILL said it was true that the late Secretary of State considered that a fair basis would be the basis of profits; but on further consideration he came to the conclusion it would not be a fair basis.

The Repatriation Proclamation.

Mr. MACKARNESS (Berkshire, Newbury): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether instructions were given by the Secretary of State to the Governor of the Transvaal to issue to the Chinese in the Rand the Repatriation Proclamation which was read to the House of Commons; and, if so, whether those instructions were complied with.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State has received the following telegram from Lord Selborne:—"23rd June A. Matter most urgent. Your telegram of 22nd June No. 1. The terms of His Majesty's Government's offer were first formulated in English. They were then translated into Chinese. Owing to difference between the genius of the two languages, the Chinese text was then translated back into English in order that the *ipsissima verba* of what the coolies would have placed before them should be submitted to you. This text was cabled in my telegram A 28th April. Words at the end usually rendered in English 'tremblingly obey' constitute stereotyped, formula attached to every single official proclamation issued in China. It is as much part of the literature of Chinese proclamation as the Royal Arms are part of an official proclamation in England, and was therefore no more telegraphed to His Majesty's Government than were the dates in two styles or the official title of the issuer. This is Superintendent of Foreign Labour's explanation to me of the words 'tremblingly obey' as I personally did not know that they were in the proclamation. So much were they a matter of course to a diplomatist of twenty years experience in China that he never even thought of mentioning them to me. I have the most profound confidence in the loyalty of Superintendent of Foreign Labour."

Mr. MACKARNESS: Do the words "tremblingly obey" still form part of the proclamation?

Mr. CHURCHILL: We are considering the desirability of making alterations and amendments in the proclamation.

Sir H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.) asked whether the words "tremblingly obey" were only used in China in prohibitive proclamations, and not in proclamations purporting to make concessions.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The hon. Member speaks with immense and exceptional authority on these questions, and I think it is quite possible that what he says is correct. Speaking for myself, I should say that no commands should be addressed to law-abiding citizens which they cannot obey without trepidation.

Mr. GOOCH (Bath): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he has ascertained whether the translation which has recently appeared of the Repatriation Proclamation is a correct translation of the proclamation as it was posted in the compounds; and, if so, why a different version was read to the House of Commons.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The Foreign Office translator has now reported that the version of the proclamation given in Lord Selborne's telegram of April 28th is a more accurate translation than that which appeared in the *Manchester Guardian*.

Mr. CLEMENT EDWARDS (Denbigh District): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the original Chinese Repatriation Proclamation was drawn by the Transvaal Chamber of Mines, or one of its officials or members; whether it was submitted to the Secretary of State, before being issued, and approved by him; and whether, when issued, it was posted in the compounds accompanied by the English version read by the Under-Secretary of State to the House of Commons, and by whom was the translation made.

Mr. CHURCHILL: With regard to the first part of the hon. Member's Question, the Secretary of State is informed that the proclamation was drafted by the Superintendent of Foreign Labour. The Answer to the second part of the Question is in the affirmative, and to the third, that he has no reason to suppose that the Chinese version of the proclamation was accompanied by the English version, which would have been unintelligible to those to whom it was addressed. The Superintendent of Foreign Labour made the translation.

Mr. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) asked if an independent translation would be made.

Mr. CHURCHILL: I have already said we are considering the issue of an amended proclamation.

Mr. MYER asked who was referred to as "we."

Mr. CHURCHILL: When the word "we" is used in answer to Questions it means His Majesty's Government.

Ceylon Pearl Fisheries.

*Sir J. JARDINE (Roxburghshire): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies on what principle of calculation the annual rent of the Ceylon Government Pearl Fisheries was fixed in the lease negotiated with the Ceylon Company of Pearl Fishers at £20,666, when the net profit of the year 1905 accruing to the Ceylon Government was £150,000; whether, before the amount of annual rent was agreed upon with the Gulf Syndicate or the Ceylon Company of Pearl Fishers, the opinions of other

Professor Herdmann or Mr. Hornell was asked or taken about the adequacy of this rent; whether Professor Herdmann was employed under Sir J. W. Ridgeway, when Governor of Ceylon, as an expert and scientific adviser on the improvement of these fisheries; and whether either Professor Herdmann or the colonial marine biologist, Mr. Hornell, sent him reports in regard to the improvement of the fisheries and the probable profits of future years.

MR. CHURCHILL: As the hon. Member will find stated on pages 12, 19, and 39 of Cd. 2906, the rental was fixed roughly at the average annual net profits to Government of the twenty years ended 1905 inclusive. I am not aware that either Professor Herdmann or Mr. Hornell was consulted as to the adequacy of this rent, but Professor Herdmann was quoted in the *Debates* in the Ceylon Legislative Council as having stated that he did not consider that the company could make their bargain a paying concern. Professor Herdmann was engaged by the Ceylon Government during Sir W. Ridgeway's tenure of office to investigate and report on the fisheries. He reached Ceylon in January, 1902, and left in April of the same year. Before Sir W. Ridgeway ceased to be Governor Professor Herdmann furnished some preliminary reports on the measures which he recommended with a view to the improvement of the fisheries, and he is now completing the fifth part of his detailed scientific report to the Government of Ceylon, four parts of which have already been published. Professor Herdmann's recommendations for the improvement of the fishery were printed in 1904 as a Sessional Paper for the Legislative Council of Ceylon, and I am not aware of any reports either by him or by Mr. Hornell other than those which have been made to the Ceylon Government. As Sir J. West Ridgeway's name has been mentioned several times in this connection, and he is himself absent from this country on duty, I think it right to add that a careful study of the Papers on the Question convinces me that he acted throughout in good faith and with integrity.

MR. DALZIEL inquired whether, having regard to the discussions which have taken place in respect to this matter, the Government did not think that it would be advisable to issue a notice to Governors of Colonies suggesting the inadvisability of their becoming directors of companies trading in the Colonies even when their term of office has expired.

MR. CHURCHILL: I will represent the view which the hon. Member has put forward to the Secretary of State.

*SIR J. JARDINE: Is not the effect of the expert reports that the annual profits since these improvements will be more uniform and far larger in future years?

MR. CHURCHILL: I have not a doubt that they will prove much more profitable in the future than they are to-day.

Flogging of Chinese Coolies at the Crœsus Mine.

MR. MACKARNESS: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Lord Selborne's long-continued efforts to obtain sufficient evidence for the prosecution of Withaner, the compound manager of the Crœsus Mine, who in March last admitted to the Superintendent of Foreign Labour, in the presence of witnesses, that he had flogged Chinese coolies in the mine, have yet been attended with success; and, if not, whether he can say what additional evidence, besides an admission of guilt by the accused, corroborated by other oral testimony, is required by the law of the Transvaal to insure conviction for a criminal offence in the courts of that colony.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State has not yet been informed whether a prosecution has been undertaken, but he has addressed a further inquiry to Lord Selborne on the subject. I cannot tell what degree and character of evidence are necessary to establish certainty of guilt under the law of the Transvaal. Each case has no doubt to be considered upon its merits rather than in obedience to any rigid rule.

In reply to a further Question,

MR. CHURCHILL said the Secretary of State would not interfere with the discretion of the authorities in South Africa in this matter.

Importation of Chinese Coolies into the Transvaal.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON (Northumberland, Tyneside): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies for which mines in the Transvaal the 1,859 Chinese, who arrived in South Africa on board the steamship "Indravelli" on May 13th, were imported; for which mines the 2,000 Chinese, who arrived on May 28th by the steamship "Cranley" were imported; and whether any steps were taken by the Government of the Transvaal before they were admitted into the Colony to ascertain whether they were not criminals or otherwise undesirables.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State does not know the particular mines for which these labourers were imported. The Government of the Transvaal has no means of enquiring into the antecedents of coolies arriving in the Colony. This can only be done in China but, as employers now realise that dangerous characters will be repatriated at their expense, there is every inducement to the labour agency they employ for recruiting not to ship coolies of this class.

Dr. Chiveiback's Claim.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he his aware that the claim of Dr. Chiveiback, formerly Red Cross medical officer with the Boer forces in the South African War, for compensation in respect of money and property taken from him by British military authorities, has neither been satisfied nor shown to have been ill-founded; and whether, seeing that the Central Judicial Commission has ceased to sit, the Colonial Office will take steps to have this claim freshly adjudicated upon.

MR. CHURCHILL: On the evidence before them, the Central Judical Commission felt bound to disallow the claim, and the funds provided for such claims have been fully distributed. In so far as there was subsequent corroborative evidence of cash to that amount having been taken from Dr. Chiveiback, a sum of £90 has been paid to him by the War Office in the special circumstances. As at present advised, the Secretary of State does not consider that Dr. Chiveiback's claim for war losses can be judged anew, as it would be liable to be quoted as a precedent for re-opening other claims and would involve the provision of further funds by Parliament. This His Majesty's Government do not feel able at this time to recommend to the House.

Boer Migration.

SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER (Wiltshire, Chippenham): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state how many Boers have emigrated to Argentina or other countries over sea since the termination of the war; how many have gone to German East Africa; and whether, or to what extent, this emigration is still going on.

MR. CHURCHILL: We have no accurate information as regards Argentina, and no information at all as regards other countries, but it is estimated that not more than 300 have gone to Argentina. I may add that twenty Boer families have recently migrated from German territory and have applied for land in the British East Africa Protectorate. They have thus voluntarily returned to British rule after having traversed the African continent to escape from it.

Jewish Colonisation.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the renewed outrages upon the Jews in Russia, any steps can be taken to give effect to the colonisation scheme of the Jewish Territorial Society.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Society are in communication with the Secretary of State on the subject, but no practical scheme has yet been submitted.

The Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

MR. LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS (Carmarthen District): I beg to ask the Under Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Government have yet received the Report of the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, which was due last October, as to the complaints against the Resident Commissioner of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands; and, if so, whether they are prepared to lay it upon the Table of the House.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State has only just received a Report by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific on the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, which deals amongst other matters with certain complaints made against the Resident Commissioner of those Islands. The Report could not be published in full, as it contains matter of a confidential nature, but the Secretary of State will consider whether extracts from the despatch can be laid before the House.

Sir West Ridgeway's Commission.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Sir West Ridgeway's Commission has completed its labours; and how soon the Report may be expected.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The Committee have completed their investigations in the two Colonies, and leave Capetown on June 27th. Their report may be expected to be in the hands of His Majesty's Government shortly after their arrival in the middle of July.

South African Native Administration.

MR. BYLES: I beg the ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Natal Government has appointed, or is about to appoint, a Commission on Native Administration and Legislation; and whether His Majesty's Government will be represented on this Commission, or will take steps on its own behalf, to obtain what information is necessary to arrive at an impartial judgment, so as to secure equitable treatment for the Natal Natives.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Natal Government has announced its intention to appoint such a Commission. The Secretary of State understands that the Commission will be a local one. His Majesty's Government do not propose to take steps as suggested which would be contrary to the principles of responsible Government. The Crown has retained the right of veto in regard to legislation inequally affecting European and non-European inhabitants of Natal but no other right has been specifically reserved.

Portugal and the Transvaal.

MR. MOLTENO (Dumfriesshire): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what is the nature of the *modus vivendi* between Portugal and the Transvaal, of which the Cape Colony and Natal complain, and which is referred to in the speech of the Governor of the Cape Colony at the opening of the present session of the Cape Parliament, as being to the detriment of the British Coast Colonies; by whom was it made; and whether the Cape and Natal were consulted at the time in the matter.

MR. CHURCHILL: The *modus vivendi* is printed as an appendix to Cd. 2104. It was made by and between the then High Commissioner for South Africa and Governor-General of Mozambique in December, 1901. I am not aware that the Governments of the Cape Colony and Natal were consulted upon a matter which after all primarily concerns the Transvaal.

MR. MOLTENO: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any official information showing that the *modus vivendi* between Portugal and the Transvaal has unduly favoured the trade of the foreign port of Delagoa Bay to the disadvantage of that of the ports of the British Colonies of the Cape and Natal; and that the trade to the Transvaal via the Cape and Natal has dwindled to small proportions as compared with that via Delagoa Bay.

MR. CHURCHILL: The question of the *modus vivendi* forms the subject of negotiation at present between His Majesty's Government and the Portuguese Government. The information given in answer to a written Question by the hon. Member to-day does not indicate that the Transvaal trade through Natal at all events has dwindled to small proportions.†

The Tse-tse Fly.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Dr. Davey's Report upon the tse-tse fly will be laid upon the Table; and whether Dr. Davey found a wild buffalo he shot in British Central Africa to be tainted with tse-tse virus.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State has not yet received any report from the British Central Protectorate upon the subject of my hon. friend's Question.

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† See Col. 614.

Aliens in Germany.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the German police authorities possess and exercise the powers of expelling aliens on the ground of their economic undesirability, in the form of undercutting competition with German workmen; and whether he can say upon how many aliens these authorities have served notice to quit Germany for economic reasons.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury) (For Sir EDWARD GREY): The German police authorities have the power to expel all aliens who may for any reason whatever be considered undesirable. His Majesty's representative at Berlin has made inquiries, and can learn of no cases in which foreign workmen have been expelled merely on the ground of undercutting competition with German workmen.

Spanish Tariffs.

MR. R. DUNCAN (Lanarkshire, Govan): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can inform the House regarding the progress of negotiations with the Spanish Government as to the proposed changes in import duties in Spain, so far as these are export duties on goods manufactured in the United Kingdom, or barriers to their entrance into Spain.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I am not yet in a position to make any definite statement upon the matter.

MR. R. DUNCAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can inform the House if goods supplied to customers in Spain, on contracts entered into early in 1906, will be subject to the tariff as in force at the time of contract.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I am not yet in a position to make any definite statement upon the matter.

MR. DUNCAN: When is one likely to be made?

MR. RUNCIMAN: I cannot say.

Macedonia.

*MR. CHARLES ROBERTS (Lincoln): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he will lay before Parliament a Report from His Majesty's Consul at Salonica, showing the changes introduced in Macedonia by the civil agents in the several branches of local government, in the judicial system, and in the prison accommodation.

MR. RUNCIMAN: We have no Report from His Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, but despatches from the British representative on the financial Commission, of which the civil agents are members, will eventually be laid, dealing generally with the administrative situation in the three Vilayets. With regard to judicial reforms, it will be seen from No. 138, Page 99, of Turkey No. 1, 1906, that it was not found possible to invest this Commission with the power of supervising the judicial Administration.

Russian Treatment of the Jews.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to the speech of Prince Urusoff, recently Under-Secretary for the Interior, in connection with the massacres of Jews in Russia; and whether any communication has been received from the Russian Government giving assurance that they will do their utmost to protect their Jewish subjects.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I have seen the accounts of the speech which have appeared in the Press. His Majesty's Government have not asked for any assurance of the nature indicated. But my hon. friend has no doubt observed the speeches made by Russian Ministers in the Duma, and the fact that the Minister of the Interior has issued instructions to governors and chiefs of police, warning them that every possible precaution should be taken to prevent riots or disorders directed against the Jews, and stating that the least sign of disturbance must be instantly suppressed, and that any neglect of duty in that respect will be punished in the severest manner.

Anarchist Newspapers in England.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has any official information showing how many newspapers supporting the doctrines of anarchism are published in this country, and in what languages such papers are printed.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I have of course official information, but I think it would not be advisable that I should make any statement on the subject.

London Juries.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether arrangements can be made whereby persons of comparatively small means living in the suburbs of London can be spared from such frequent calls to serve on special and common juries as are made upon them at present.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I have no authority with regard to the arrangements for summoning jurors, and cannot give any instructions in the matter. Service on juries is a public duty which must necessarily cause some inconvenience to those on whom it falls, but I have no reason to think that residents in London suburbs have any special grievance in this matter.

*MR. REES: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that such summonses seem to be escaped by persons living in houses with high rents?

MR. GLADSTONE: No, Sir. I am not aware of that.

Motor Accidents in London.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state the number of accidents in the London area during the month of May last, from motor 'buses and motor cars, respectively; in how many instances have personal injuries resulted; and in how many cases have such injuries proved fatal.

*MR. GLADSTONE: During the month of May, 1906, the number of accidents known to the police to have been caused by motor cars (including motor cycles) within the Metropolitan Police District was 556. Of these 169 resulted in personal injury and four proved fatal. In the same month 400 accidents were caused by motor omnibuses of which sixty-two resulted in personal injury and two were fatal. Accidents caused by tramcars are not included.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): Is it intended this session to take any steps to regulate motor traffic?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I cannot say.

Miss Billington's Case.

MR. CLYNES (Manchester, N.E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydfil I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has now had an opportunity of considering the papers relating to the case of Miss Teressa Billington, who was fined £10 with the alternative of two months' imprisonment at the Marylebone police court on Thursday last; and what decision he has come to in relation thereto.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I have now seen the evidence in this case. It was clearly proved that Miss Billington was, with other women, causing an obstruction in Cavendish Square, and that when a police officer asked her to move away from the square, she slapped him in the face three times, and, after she was arrested, kicked him twice. Miss Billington did not deny these charges nor question the evidence. In these circumstances the Magistrate had no choice but to convict, and I think that his sentence—a fine of £10, or two months imprisonment—was a reasonable and proper one. I have since received an appeal for leniency from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In consequence of this appeal I have, with the concurrence of the learned Magistrate, reduced the fine to £5, or in default one month's imprisonment.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.) asked whether, seeing that Miss Billington was acting on the advice tendered by the President of the Board of Trade in this matter, the Home Secretary would not use his influence to get a rehearing of the case. There was sufficient evidence to prove that this lady did not commit the assault complained of, but rather resisted an assault committed upon her.

[No Answer was returned.]

Flogging in Prison.

Mr. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many floggings were inflicted in convict and local prisons during the years ended March 31st, 1905, and March 31st, 1906, respectively; and whether any prisoner was flogged more than once during those years.

*Mr. GLADSTONE: The numbers were as follows:—

	Convict prisons.	Local prisons.
Year ended March 31st, 1905 - - -	8	15
Year ended March 31st, 1906 - - -	17	30

One prisoner who received a corporal punishment of eighteen strokes with the birch on November 7th, 1904, also received twenty-four strokes with the birch on August 8th, 1905. No other prisoners have received corporal punishment twice during the two years named.

Probation Guardianship of Criminal Offenders.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to a statement in the last Report of the Prison Commissioners for Scotland that a system of probation guardianship of criminal offenders is being introduced gradually, so far as the existing law allows, and with successful results, in the courts of some of the burghs and large cities, and especially in Dundee, whereby the operation of the sentence is suspended provided that the offender behaves well under supervision; and if he will consider whether it would not be practicable to introduce a similar system of probation in the Metropolis.

*Mr. GLADSTONE: The matter has for some time been engaging my attention. The Metropolitan Magistrates already in many cases exercise their powers under the Summary Jurisdiction and First Offenders Acts, and place criminal offenders under probation; but I am satisfied that further powers are required, and a Bill on the subject is now being prepared.

The Madrid Outrage.

Sir W. EVANS-GORDON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to certain passages occurring in two papers published in London, on 8th and 15th June, in which it is stated that the perpetrator of the recent outrage in Madrid was no criminal, but sacrificed his life in the interests of humanity, and in which regret is expressed that the object of the outrage, namely, the death of the King and Queen of Spain, had not been attained; and whether he proposes to take any steps against the persons responsible for these publications.

*Mr. GLADSTONE: I have seen translations of the passages referred to. The sentiments expressed are highly objectionable, but, as I am advised, it would not be expedient to take proceedings.

Sir W. EVANS-GORDON: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman in what respect this case differs from that of a man named Most, who in 1882 was convicted of approving the murder of the Tsar of Russia, and was sentenced to a long term of imprisonment, and whose press was broken up?

*Mr. GLADSTONE: The case is a different one, but it is quite obvious that I am unable to state the difference across the floor of the House.

Sir W. EVANS-GORDON: May I ask in what respect the cases are different?

[No Answer was returned.]

Richards, Limited, Aberdeen.

Mr. CLYNES: On behalf of the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil, I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether Messrs. Richards, Limited, Aberdeen, are on the list of contractors for his Department; whether he is aware that this firm have dismissed sixty of their workwomen, some of whom have worked for the firm for over thirty years, for having joined a trade union, and refuse to reinstate them unless they give an undertaking to withdraw from the union; and what action he proposes to take in the matter.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): This firm does not at present hold any orders from the Post Office.

American Mail Service.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that the mid-week mails for the United States were dispatched on Wednesday, 20th June, from Southampton by a German steamer; that, in view of the inability of the managers of the White Star Line to provide their fast steamers for the mail service, recourse is frequently had to German steamers for this purpose; and, seeing that when this course is adopted the mails are closed many hours before the usual time, thus causing inconvenience to the business community, will he say what steps the Government propose taking to ensure regularity in this matter.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I am aware of the course followed on the occasion in question, when, as sometimes happens, the White Star Company find it necessary to employ one of their slower steamers for the mid-week service to the United States, the mails are forwarded by any faster packet that may be available. This arrangement is adopted entirely in the interests of the public, and as it is always announced beforehand I do not think that inconvenience is caused by it. Although on such occasions the bulk of the mails leave London on Wednesdays earlier than usual, it is the practice to despatch supplementary mails at the regular hour for embarkation on board the White Star packet at Queenstown.

Millom Telephone Service.

MR. FULLERTON (Cumberland, Egremont): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he will undertake to supply a public telephone service for the town of Millom; and whether there are any other towns in the United Kingdom with a population of 10,000 without a public telephone service.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Enquiry was made by the Post Office in 1903, and again in 1905 as to the demand for a telephone service at Millom, but not more than five subscribers could be found. The length of a trunk line to Barrow would be about twenty-four miles and it would be costly to erect. I will, however, have further enquiry made as to the amount of the guarantee required under the reduced terms lately announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. There are other districts with as large a population as Millom without a telephone service, the provision of which must depend more on the demand than on actual population.

Preserved Foods.

MR. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he could see his way to pay a few surprise visits to the chief manufactories of meat and food products throughout the metropolis.

The following Questions also stood on the Paper:—

MR. ALDEN: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will insist that, in the examinations conferring certificates on sanitary inspectors, some portion of the questions asked shall be on the subject of meat and food inspection, in order that every qualified inspector shall have a knowledge of this important subject.

MR. ALDEN: To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will grant a Return of the number of inspectors in England and Wales who hold a meat and food certificate, and are fully qualified to inspect all meat and food products.

MR. ALDEN: To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware of the differences in method of the meat and food inspection under the various local sanitary authorities in London; and whether he will issue a circular to such authorities, recommending one uniform system of inspection throughout the whole of London and the extra metropolitan boroughs.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): Perhaps I may be allowed to answer this and the three following Questions together. As to the first, I do not think that any intimation that surprise visits would be paid to the chief manufactories of meat and food products in London would be likely to answer the object which my hon. friend has in view. As to the second, the subject of meat and food inspection is one of those upon which candidates for certificates from the Sanitary Inspectors Examination Board and the Royal Sanitary Institute are examined at the present time. The latter body have also a special examination on the subject. As regards the third Question, I would refer my hon. friend to the Return No. 326 which was obtained in 1904 by the hon. Member for the St. Patrick's Division of Dublin, and which gives the particulars he desires as respects London and certain large towns. To obtain a Return for the whole country would involve much labour and expense. As regards his last Question, I may state that I am aware of the differences in method of the meat and food inspection therein referred to. I do not think that at the present time advantage would be likely to result from a circular of the kind suggested, but I am considering whether, when some further information has been obtained, a conference of the local authorities specially concerned might not usefully be convened with a view to uniformity of action in this matter.

Canned Foods.

MR. T. DAVIES (Fulham): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the report of the medical officer of health for one of the London boroughs, drawing attention to the quantity of tin in solution he has found in canned food which had been packed for a long time, and to the fact that old tins often contain such a large quantity as to be dangerous to the health of persons consuming the food; and whether, seeing that the presence of this poison can only be detected by chemical examination, the goods apparently looking and tasting all right, he will, in order to minimise this danger, take steps to compel all packers to have the date of packing stamped on each tin.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I am aware of the report referred to. Legislation would be necessary to render it compulsory on packers to have the date of packing stamped on each tin. The matter will receive consideration, but I think further investigation is required before it can be determined whether such a requirement ought to be made in the interests of the public health.

Light Railways in the Highlands.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the provisions of the Light Railways Act are such as to render the construction of a light railway in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland impracticable without liberal local assistance; and, seeing that no such help is available in districts such as that between Garve and Ullapool, Ross-shire, will he consider the expediency of introducing legislation with a view to render the Treasury grants for the construction of light railways in the crofting counties of a more liberal character than at present.

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. KEARLEY, Devonport): The requirement of local assistance as a condition of a Treasury advance in furtherance of the construction of light railways seems to be a sound one, and there appears to be no ground for amending the existing law in the direction indicated in the Question.

Cornish Crabbers' Grievance.

MR. HAY MORGAN (Cornwall, Truro): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether his attention has been called to the fact that the French crabbers are continually coming within the three-mile limit of the coast of South-west Cornwall; and whether he will see that the gunboat, which is told off to protect the interest of the Cornish fishermen in this respect, will be ordered to visit this part of the Cornish coast.

I beg also to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether his attention has been called to the fact that trawlers frequently approach the Cornish coast at Coverack and trawl up the stockpots of the Cornish crabbers; and whether he will take steps to put a stop to such practices.

Mr. KEARLEY: My attention has been called to the fact that the trawl fishermen in the Bay of Coverack have been accused of fouling the stockpots of the Cornish crabbers, but so far no complaint has reached us of French crabbers fishing within the territorial limit. However, the Board of Trade will make inquiries and also communicate with the Admiralty to arrange for a gunboat to visit this part of the coast. I would point out that the crabbers whose stockpots have been interfered with have a remedy under Section 4 of the Sea Fisheries Act, 1883.

Llanelltyd School.

Mr. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that the salary of the schoolmistress of the non-provided school at Llanelltyd has not been paid for more than four months; that several appeals have been made in vain to the Board of Education on her behalf; what steps he proposes to take to secure the payment of her arrears of salary; and when she may expect to receive the money due to her.

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of EDUCATION (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.): The case referred to is a difficult and complicated one. I am in communication with the local authority in regard to the present condition of things as respects the teacher's salary, which is singularly unfortunate; and, though the position of the school and of the managers is gravely open to question, I am not without hope that the hardship to the teacher may shortly be removed.

Inspection of Welsh Intermediate Schools.

Mr. BRIDGEMAN: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education what inspection of Welsh intermediate schools is made by the Board of Education apart from the inspection of the Central Welsh Board; whether the Board of Education exercising the powers of the Charity Commission, have power to inspect such schools; and whether any of such schools are inspected by the Board of Education in their administrative capacity as distributor of secondary or other grants.

Mr. BIRRELL: The Board of Education, exercising the powers of the Charity Commission, have power to inspect all schools regulated by scheme under the Welsh Intermediate Education Act, 1889. By Treasury regulations made under Section 9 of that Act, they have further power to make such examination or inspection of the schools, in addition to that conducted by the Central Welsh Board, as they may think necessary, in order to ascertain whether the conditions under which the Treasury grant may be paid under that Act have been fulfilled. No inspection has so far taken place under either of the above-mentioned powers. Over eighty of the Welsh intermediate schools, out of a total of ninety-five, are recognised for grants under the Board's secondary school regulations, and each of these is periodically inspected by the Board under those regulations. Many of these also receive grants under the Board's regulations for the instruction and training of pupil teachers, and are fully inspected by the Board for the purposes of these grants.

Cost of School House Maintenance.

Mr. BRIDGEMAN: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether, in any arrangement under Clause 2 of the Education Bill, provision will have to be made for an apportionment of expenses between owners and local education authority whereby the cost of cleaning, lighting, and heating the school building, and of damage caused by wear and tear of the school furniture in respect of the use of the building out of school hours shall not be borne by the authority; and whether, in view of Sub-section 2 of Clause 3, a similar apportionment will have to be made between the persons providing denominational instruction and the authority.

Mr. BIRRELL: All the matters referred to in the Question must be matters of arrangement between the owners and the local education authority.

Religious Teaching in Schools.

Lord R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether it is contemplated by the Government that children who receive denominational instruction under the facilities granted in accordance with Clause 3 of the Education Bill will, on the same day, receive Cowper-Temple instruction from the local education authority; whether it is contemplated that denominational instruction will take place before Cowper-Temple instruction or at an hour when Cowper-Temple instruction is being given to the other children; and whether it will be the duty of the local authority to see that discipline is preserved in the school during the giving of denominational instruction, and to use the services of the teachers for the purpose.

MR. BIRRELL: The Answer to the first paragraph of the Question is in the negative. The Answer to the second paragraph is that the second of the two alternatives suggested is correct. The point referred to in the third paragraph will rest in the discretion of the local education authority.

Railway Companies' Receipts.

MR. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthenshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether receipts given to passengers by railway companies, for sums exceeding £2 for excess luggage, are liable to penny stamp duty, and, if so, will he state whether any steps are taken by the Inland Revenue to enforce the observance of the law and to receive the duties, or to enforce the penalties set out in the statutes; if they are not liable, will he state under what sections of the Stamp Acts railway companies are exempt from payment of the duty.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): The documents referred to are treated as tickets authorising the conveyance of the luggage and are regarded as not in substance differing from an ordinary passenger ticket, and so not liable to stamp duty as receipts.

Royal Botanic Museum.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD: I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether, in view of the educational value of the economic museums in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and of the fact that no official guide has been on sale since 1895 for No. I. Museum, the Board will immediately publish one.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): A new edition of the official guide for Museum No. I. is now in course of preparation. It will be completed and issued to the public at the earliest possible date.

Crofters Act Amendment Bill.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland why the promised Crofters' Act Amendment Bill has not yet been introduced, and can he now say when it will be brought in.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): The Bill is still under preparation, and I am not yet able to say when it will be introduced.

MR. WEIR: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Prime Minister during the general election referred to this question as one of an urgent character?

MR. SINCLAIR: I can assure the hon. Member that no time is being lost.

Ross-shire Schools Water Supply.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, having regard to the fact that on the mainland of Ross-shire there are sixteen, and in the Island of Lewis eighteen schools in which the water supply is reported to be defective, will he state in how many cases action is being taken with a view to secure a suitable water supply.

MR. SINCLAIR: I may explain that in classing schools as defective as regards their water supply, it was not meant to be implied that no supply at all of drinking water was available for the school children. In all of the cases, as a matter of fact, good drinking water is available, but at too remote a distance in the opinion of the medical officer for the use of the school children. Of the sixteen schools on the mainland of Ross-shire, improvements on the water supplies are in hand with regard to five of them. There is no information available in the meantime with regard to the Lewis schools.

Upper Bayble Cottars.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state how many cottars resident at Upper Bayble, Island of Lewis, have written to the Scottish Office expressing their willingness to transfer themselves to the mainland provided that the Congested Districts Board arrange reasonable aid for their settlement; and will the Board consider the expediency of making the conditions of migration known throughout the island by means of posters in the different townships.

MR. SINCLAIR: I would refer the hon. Member to my Answer to his unstarred Question No. 5 of June 11th.† No such cottars have hitherto expressed their willingness, so far as I know, to migrate to the mainland. In regard to the complaint made by these cottars and referred to in my reply of June 11th, the Congested Districts Board is in correspondence with the Landward Committee.

Highland School Board Franchise.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, having regard to the fact that persons whose rentals do not exceed £4, while entitled to vote at parliamentary and county council elections, have no vote at school board elections, will he state when he proposes to present to Parliament a Return showing the number of persons in the Highland crofting counties who are thus deprived of the school board franchise.

MR. SINCLAIR: The form of the Return is under consideration, and at present no date can be named.

Sanitation in the Island of Lewis.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he has yet applied to the Treasury for funds for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the Island of Lewis.

MR. SINCLAIR: I am now in conference with the Treasury in regard to this subject.

Gort Licensing Case.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that Francis J. Persse, J.P., sat at Gort, county Galway, Petty Sessions on May 3rd, and adjudicated in a licensing case, in which Mr. Hart of Gort was defendant, and he being a tenant on the estate over which Mr. Persse acts as agent; and whether the Government will take steps to prevent justices acting in the dual capacity of agent of disturbed estates and officiating magisterially at the same time.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool, Exchange): I believe the facts to be as stated in the Question. It would appear that a Mr. Hart was prosecuted by the police at the Gort Petty Sessions for a breach of the licensing laws in having his licensed premises open at a prohibited time. The case was heard before the resident magistrate and two other magistrates, of whom Mr. Persse was one, and was dismissed upon the merits. No objection was made to Mr. Persse adjudicating, and the fact that he is alleged to be agent over the estate upon which Hart resided was not a legal disqualification to his acting as a magistrate at the hearing of the case.

Drumtullagh National School.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that in 1905 a site was secured for a teachers' residence in connection with Drumtullagh national school, county Antrim; that the manager of the school applied to the Board of Works for a loan to erect the residence; that the application was accepted on the conditions that the vesting order be deposited with the Board, which is impossible until the estate from which the site has been granted is sold; and whether, in view of the fact that years may elapse before the estate will be sold, and that the Board of Works have accepted sureties for the loan, he will order it to be granted forthwith.

MR. McKENNA: I am informed that the facts are as stated except that Amendments have been called for in the plans and specifications. At present the applicant has only a yearly tenancy, which does not afford adequate security for the proposed loan. I believe the difficulties in this case could easily be removed and I shall be glad to communicate privately with the hon. Member.

Limerick Postman's Pension.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he can state the reason why the pension due to Matthew Larkin, postman at Limerick, who was superannuated on medical disqualification, December 21st, 1905, after thirty-seven years service, has not yet been awarded to him; whether any sum of money has been granted in advance, and, if so, how much; and whether, taking the man's circumstances into account, he will see that the pension will be granted with as little delay as possible.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 690.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The delay in awarding the pension to Matthew Larkin, postman at Limerick, is attributable to the fact that considerable difficulty has been experienced in obtaining authentic information regarding his early service. An advance of £8 in respect of pension was made to Larkin in March last and the payment of a further sum of £10 has been authorised. The hon. Member may rest assured that the pension will be granted at as early a date as possible.

Wage Disputes—International Action.

MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether his attention has been called to M. Clemenceau's proposed legislation dealing with State regulation of industrial disputes and contracts; and whether, in view of the fact that the success of such regulations depends largely on international co-operation, His Majesty's Government will communicate with the French and German Governments as to the possibility of arranging for simultaneous legislation on such subjects in their respective countries.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): Yes, Sir, I have seen the passage in M. Clemenceau's speech to which my hon. friend refers. I understand, however, that the *projet de loi* embodying the intentions of the French Government has not as yet been issued, so that my hon. friend will see that we have no material upon which to found a decision as to the advisability of concurrent legislation in respect to this question. For myself, I am disposed to think that though there are many directions in which international co-operation may be of great service in bettering the conditions of labour, this particular question of the regulation of industrial disputes is so affected by the varying circumstances of different countries that united action may be difficult.

Education Bill Closure.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the operation of the Order of June 18th relating to procedure on the Education Bill, he will propose an Amendment to it providing that the closure at the end of each compartment shall be applied at 10.50 instead of 10.30.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No, Sir, I cannot see my way to proposing the Amendment which the noble Lord suggests.

The National Gallery.

MR. HORNIMAN (Chelsea): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he has or will consider the advisability of so altering the terms of the appointment of the new director of the National Gallery, whereby greater facilities may be given for the rapid acceptance or purchase of pictures, so that donors may not be discouraged by delays and money wasted by the pictures not being bought until after they have been sold by the original owners.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The present director of the National Gallery has been appointed on the same terms as his predecessor. The expediency of modifying the *status* and power of the director is receiving careful consideration.

The Ceylon Pearl Fisheries.

SIR J. JARDINE: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he will be able to give a day for discussion of the lease of the Ceylon Government Pearl Fisheries to the Ceylon Company of Pearl Fishers.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No, Sir, I am afraid it is impossible to promise a day for the discussion of the matter, however important it may be.

SIR J. JARDINE: Is the Prime Minister aware that the lease to the Ceylon Company of Pearl Fishers is causing much comment in Ceylon, Scotland and the City?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am afraid the exigencies of time are too strong to render any prospect of the debate possible.

English Printers in Canada.

MR. WALKER (Leicestershire, Melton): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether His Majesty's Government intend to introduce legislation, in the sense desired by the Dominion Government, which would render punishable false representations such as those which recently induced a body of English printers to migrate to Canada to take the place of Canadian workmen who were on strike.

SIR H. CAMPBELL BANNERMAN: The published correspondence regarding the case of the English printers who were induced to migrate to Canada during a strike at Winnipeg shows that His Majesty's Government have been most anxious to meet the views of the Canadian Government in this matter. On May 16th the Secretary of State requested the Governor-General to assure the Ministry that their suggestion that Imperial legislation should be introduced to deal with any future cases of a similar character would receive the careful consideration of His Majesty's Government. That undertaking is now being carried out, but I am afraid in any event that it will hardly be possible to introduce legislation during the present session.

Public Trustee Bill.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the Prime Minister if his attention has been called to the recent absconding of another fraudulent trustee, involving widows and orphans in heavy loss, and if, with a view to affording the public the earliest opportunity of escape from these robberies of trust funds, he will press forward the remaining stages of the Public Trustee Bill, brought in by the Government, and read a second time in this House without a division. Has the right hon. Gentleman noticed three cases in to-day's paper?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I can only say that the Government will do all it can to further the progress of this most necessary Bill.

Board of Agriculture Vote.

MR. BECK (Cambridgeshire, Wisbech): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he will, having in view the interests concerned and the fact that the House of Commons has of late years devoted little time to agricultural questions, consider the advisability of allotting an early day for taking the Vote on the Board of Agriculture.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The Vote on the Board of Agriculture will be taken, if possible, on July 12th.

Women on Local Education Authorities.

*MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether his attention has been drawn to the statement made on behalf of the Board of Education to the effect that the Board desire to see women given a responsible position in the direction of public education, but that the Board cannot give effect to this desire because the remedy lies in the alteration of our Local Government laws; and whether the Government will meet the views of the Board of Education in this matter by giving facilities for the passing into law during the present session of the Local Authorities (Qualification of Women) Bill, which would render women eligible for election on the same terms as men on the local councils which are to be elected in March and November, 1907, and which will become the local education authorities to administer the New Education Act.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I do not understand that the Board of Education have ever offered an opinion on the question of associating women with the general work of local government. That would be beyond their province. The Government, however, earnestly desire to see women placed in a position in which they can take their full share in educational administration, and though I cannot give a definite promise of Government facilities at the moment, my hon. friend may rely upon it that we shall keep the matter before us.

*MR. LEIF JONES asked the right hon. Gentleman to bear in mind that unless the alteration could be made this year women would have no place upon the first local authorities elected to administer the new Education Act.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said he would bear that in mind.

Responsible Government for the Transvaal.

MR. BYLES: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the House will have an opportunity of discussing any proposals the Government may make for the establishment of responsible government in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Yes, Sir, an opportunity will be given of discussing the question.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): Will it be given before the House rises for the holidays?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I cannot say when it will be.

The Education Bill.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) asked the Prime Minister whether he could so arrange that the important series of Amendments to Clause 4 of the Education Bill standing in the name of the President of the Board of Education, including one permitting denominational school managers in special cases to contract themselves out of the Act of 1902 and the present Bill, should receive discussion. As the Amendments were placed at the end of Clause 4 it was practically certain as matters stood that they would be put to the House on Wednesday at 10.30 without debate.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I think it is clear that ample time will in fact be secured for the discussion of the important matters referred to by my hon. friend, if only because all the points contained in the new Amendments are in effect raised by Amendments to Clause 4 which occur quite early on the Paper, and which, so far as I can see, will receive full and ample discussion.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) asked what would be the distribution of the work of Supply in the days yet remaining. He understood the Government intended to give only twenty days for Supply instead of the maximum of twenty-three days which had been commonly but not always given.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said on Thursday next the Irish Estimates would be taken, beginning with the Vote for the Congested Districts Board. On July 5th the Foreign Office Vote would be taken, and, if possible, a short time would be given for the further consideration of Scotch Estimates the discussion of which was shortened by the interposition of a private Bill. On July 12th the Army Estimates would be taken, when the Secretary of State for War would make a further statement. If possible, the vote for the Board of Agriculture would also be taken. On July 13th they would take the Navy Estimates, Vote 8.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: When will the Volunteer Vote be taken?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: It will be the second Vote on the day set apart for the Army Estimates

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked whether, if a third day was given for Irish Supply, the Chief Secretary's Vote would be put down on that day. It was desired by some representative of the Irish minority to raise some points of importance on that Vote.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said the Irish Members would expect three days for Irish Supply. That was the minimum that had been granted in former years. He hoped the Irish Members would be consulted before the question of the particular Irish Supply to be taken was decided.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said that was a reasonable request. The Government would be glad to receive suggestions from the Irish Members and from all parts of the House.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he did not think it would be wise to limit the debate on the Foreign Office Vote by taking Scottish Estimates that day.

MR. WEIR pointed out that Scotland had fared worse this year than in any year in the last fifteen years.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Any apparent neglect of Scottish affairs is due to our excessive desire to give the fullest consideration to Scottish measures and to make adequate inquiry before framing them.

MR. WEIR: My reference was not to legislation but to Supply.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD: When will the Colonial Vote be taken?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I cannot name a day at present.

COLONEL WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire W.) asked at what hour the Board of Agriculture vote would be taken on July 12th.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: It depends on the debate on the Army Votes.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL [LORDS].

Reported, with an Amendment, from the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

Ordered, That the Report do lie upon the Table, and be printed. [No. 212.]

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee be printed. [No. 212.]

Ordered, That the Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), be taken into consideration To-morrow.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW, ETC.

Ordered, That the Standing Committee on Law have leave to sit To-morrow during the Sitting of the House for the consideration of the Workmen's Compensation Bill.—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*)

NEW BILLS.

REMOVAL OF OFFENSIVE MATTER BILL.

"To repeal the provisions of the Metropolitan Police Act, 1839, with respect to the Removal of Offensive Matter in places within the Metropolitan Police Act, 1839, with respect to the Removal of offensive matter in places within the Metropolitan Police District," presented by Mr. John Burns; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 268.]

DANGEROUS PERFORMANCES BILL.

"To consolidate and amend the Law relating to the employment of girls, boys, or women in Dangerous Performances," presented by Mr. Herbert Samuel; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 269.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT (1894) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894," presented by Mr. Cathcart Wason; supported by Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. Harmsworth, Mr. John Dewar, Mr. Weir, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Gulland, Sir Henry Craik, Viscount Dalrymple, Sir John Batty Tuke, Major Anstruther-Gray, Mr. Younger, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, and Mr. Cross; to be read a second time upon Thursday, and to be printed. [Bill 270.]

PROBATION OF FIRST OFFENDERS BILL.

"To amend the Probation of First Offenders Act, 1887; and to authorise the appointment of Probation officers," presented by Sir Howard Vincent; supported by Viscount Helmsley; to be read a second time upon Monday, July 16th, and to be printed. [Bill 271.]

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee:—

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 4:—

*THE CHAIRMAN having ruled out of order that Amendments standing in the names of the hon. Members for Spalding, North Hackney, Glasgow and Aberdeen University, Chichester, Ludlow, Wycombe and Preston,

*MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor) moved to insert the word "shall" in place of "may." His desire in so doing was to obtain equal treatment for all denominations so that they should be enabled to obtain extended facilities. If the purposes of the clause were carried out, every denomination ought to have equal rights to extended facilities, but from what they had learnt it was perfectly clear that the local education authorities in different parts of the country would not mete out equal treatment to the parents who applied. Even the other day the County Council for the West Riding of Yorkshire had done its best to drive a coach and six through the Act of 1902, and under these circumstances it was legitimate to ask what would occur in many parts, Wales, for instance, granting the word "may" remained and "shall" was not inserted. Supposing in the case of a small village in Wales four-fifths of the parents applied for extended facilities. What guarantee was there that the local education authority would accede to their request? It was most important, in view of what had happened in the West Riding of Yorkshire and Wales and elsewhere, that Parliament should clearly explain its intentions and make this clause mandatory. The right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Education had said more than once that he did not intend these extended facilities to be illusory. If that was his view he could hardly fail to accept the Amendment. He could not see how the clause could be otherwise than illusory if it was not made mandatory. The right hon. Gentleman had just given notice of a number of other Amendments which made confusion worse confounded. He had spent some time in trying to find out how they were to affect this clause, but he did not see that they covered the whole ground, though some filled up the gaps now admittedly left open in drafting the Bill.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said it was impossible to carry on the debate without referring to the Amendments of the right hon. Gentleman, and personally he had no objection to their being discussed at this time, but he would like to know whether it was in order.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that on the Question of "may" or "shall" now under consideration there did arise considerations affecting many, if not all, of the Amendments proposed by the President of the Board of Education. Therefore he thought that it would be for the convenience of the Committee that the general effect of the Government Amendments should be discussed on the present Amendment to some extent, but that attempts to amend those Amendments in detail must be left until they were reached.

*MR. EVELYN CECIL, continuing, said he failed to see how the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman, which started on the assumption that the local education authority refused to agree to an arrangement with the owners of the schoolhouse, covered the whole ground of Clause 4. Take this case. He would assume that the schoolhouse had been transferred. After an interval of some months, or years, the parents of four-fifths of the children in the particular district desired to get extended facilities for their children. The schoolhouse had already been handed over to the use of the local education authority, and the local authority refused to grant the facilities. What was to happen after that? Therefore as he did not see that the Amendments of the right hon Gentleman grappled adequately with the question he felt that his own Amendment was all the more necessary. It was much the simpler way of dealing with the matter. The alteration of "may" to "shall" was plain and simple legislation, while the Amendments of the right hon. Gentleman seemed to him to be very complicated. It was easy to imagine from existing circumstances what different tempers local education authorities might be in. In one case the local education authority might be in the humour to refuse the facilities altogether. In another they might be in the humour to refuse them to Church of England parents, but not to Roman Catholics or to Jews. Such a thing would be an act of gross injustice, and certainly was not intended by Parliament. Then why should not Parliament say so in the Bill? Further, if the local education authority was left to decide the question of giving facilities to four-fifths of the children, there would be a serious risk of religious quarrels at every local election, and he ventured to think that if the right hon. Gentleman did not make the clause mandatory the religious difficulty would continue as much in the future as in the past. They applied for equal treatment. It was not so long ago that the Prime Minister, speaking at Norwich on November 26th, 1904, said—

> "We want the child to be brought up in the faith of his father at least until he comes to such an age as to be qualified to be a judge of a faith for himself."

The right hon. Gentleman went on to say that the object of the Liberal Party was to secure perfect freedom of conscience and equal treatment. That quotation showed that the Prime Minister at that time was in favour of some such Amendment, and if that was the view upon which the Radical Party went to the country why could they not now accept the Amendment he moved? With regard to the penalties, he supposed if this clause was made mandatory the proper course would be for the Board of Education to apply for a mandamus against the local authority in fault. But the better course, in his view, would be for the Board of Education to withhold the Parliamentary grants until such time as the local authority had complied with the mandatory conditions under Clause 4. If the Amendment was accepted he would suggest that the right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Education should introduce the penalties required on the lines he had just suggested. In urging the importance of the Amendment he might be allowed to say a word once more on the value of denominational teaching. Many believed that undenominational teaching was simply laying down a method by which everybody was to be a law unto themselves. He did not desire to press one kind of denominational teaching as against another, from this particular point of view. What was important was that denominational teaching should guide the growing youth of the country, watch over it with a helping hand, and save it from drifting away towards that indifference which as a rule led to a career of selfishness and crime. He claimed that the parents of the children should be able to obtain the special kind of religious teaching they desired. He felt convinced that unless they aimed at securing that right to the parents, by the adoption of this Amendment, the Bill had no chance of being regarded as a final settlement of the religious question.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 39, to leave out the word 'may,' and insert the word 'shall.'"—(*Mr. Evelyn Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'may' stand part of the clause."

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.) said he quite agreed with the hon. Member for Aston Manor that probably it was difficult for him to give reasons why the Government could not accept this Amendment without indicating very shortly the general effect and purport of the Amendments which now appeared on the Paper in his name. He thought that when the matter was fairly considered, having regard to the fact that the new Government Amendments did not in any way raise questions new to the Committee, but, as it were, only fixed and combined in a consecutive form separate Amendments which were now scattered up and down the Amendment Paper, the Committee would agree that time would not be lost if he were allowed very shortly to state the general effect and purport of those Amendments by way of answer to the Amendment which had just been moved. Clause 4 was the only clause with which they were now concerned, and any observations he made must be considered as rigorously confined to that clause. Clause 4, as originally drafted, was admittedly an obvious exception to the whole scheme and plan of the Bill as laid down in the first and most important clause. It had been called, and he did not quarrel with the word, an excrescence on the Bill; but it was, in the opinion of the Government, a necessary clause, and therefore ought to be made an effective clause, in consequence of what followed on the Committee adopting Clause 1 in the form it was introduced with the kind of religious teaching which followed on that. It had often been put to him and the Government that if they had only had, in the preparation of their Bill and in deciding on the scheme they would adopt, the courage to base their measure either on an entirely secular scheme or to adopt "the facilities all-round" proposal, there would have been no necessity for Clause 4, and the supporters of the Government would have been spared a burden on their political minds and opinions by the appearance, in a measure which they wished to support, of a clause that had an undoubted denominational flavour and character. That, however, was inaccurate. Had they adopted the secular system, or the "all-round facilities" system, he would at that moment have been face to face with all the difficulties which had made Clause 4 necessary; because it was not to be supposed that Roman Catholics or Jews or Anglicans would be content to say that their religious feeling was satisfied by setting aside three-quarters of or half an hour each day for the purpose of teaching a catechism or formulary. The Government would have been told that that was the least part of religious education—that it consisted of more than that, namely, the spirit animating the instruction—a spirit which was to be found, as much, he hoped, in a council school as in a voluntary school. It was quite a mistake to suppose that the Government would have got rid of any of their difficulties if they had adopted either the plain secular system or the plan of facilities to everybody to come into a school for half an hour at the beginning of every day. Clause 4 was a purely voluntary clause—that was to say, there was no kind of obligation on the local education authority to take over a school, nor was there any obligation on them, if they were anxious to take over a school, to give extended facilities. On the First Reading of the Bill he said that this clause left everything to the local education authority, and that that authority might do as it liked in the matter. That was a clear statement as to the character of this clause, and then, as soon as the Bill was drafted, the Amendment Paper became crowded with Amendments proposing to substitute "shall" for "may." Therefore the Government had to consider whether or not they could in these four-fifths schools meet the views which were represented by those Amendments. One of the new Amendments which stood in his name sought to remove the risk of any existing voluntary school which fulfilled the conditions (*a*) and (*b*) of the first sub-section being improperly refused by the local education authority the extended facilities contemplated by the clause. How did they suggest that that should be done? By providing for an appeal to the Board of Education, in the event of the refusal of a local authority to make arrangements for the transfer of such a school on the terms of the clause. That appeal having been given, he hoped the necessity for it would very rarely occur; but whenever it did, the Board might, if it thought fit, after considering the circumstances of the case and the wishes of the parents of the children attending the school as to the continuance of the school with extended facilities, make its own order as to the terms and conditions, including conditions as to extended facilities. Such an order, of course, when once made must be complied with. It would be the duty of a local education authority to comply with any condition contained in any arrangement made by such an order. But there was an alternative. This new clause provided that, if under any special circumstances of the case the Board thought it expedient, they might make an order allowing the school to continue as a State-aided school, receiving the Parliamentary grant, but not rate aid. He quite understood the objection on principle which every educationist must entertain to schools standing out of the national system; but this was an exception grafted on an exception. Assuming (*a*) and (*b*) to be fulfilled, he was confident that it was not likely that the local education authorities would take it on themselves to refuse extended facilities, but he did not quarrel with Gentlemen in any part of the House who thought that the possibility of their doing so was sufficiently real to entitle them to some statutory protection. People were certainly entitled to be cautious in this House and to consider remote possibilities, particularly when the matter concerned was one so vital, as they thought, to the interests of the children. But no one would think that it was very likely that in many instances the local education authority would, conditions (*a*) and (*b*) having been fulfilled, decline to enter into an arrangement because, if they did so, they would have to grant facilities. But supposing they did, then came the new Amendment giving an appeal to the Board of Education; and assuming that the Board supported the appellants and thought it was reasonable that the school should be taken over on the terms of extended facilities being given, it was more unlikely that any local authority would refuse to be guided by the Board of Education. If, however, they still held out, there was a mandamus. He confessed he would not allow himself to contemplate the possibility of a local education authority anywhere refusing to obey an order of the King's Bench. Was there any county in England or Wales where the King's writs did not run? Certainly not. Therefore the mandamus was a most powerful engine whereby to effect the purpose they had in view. But there was an alternative suggested even to the mandamus, and that was that the Board of Education, under any special circumstances of the case, might, if they thought it wise, allow the school to continue and to become a State-aided school, receiving the Parliamentary grant, but not being entitled to rate aid. He was therefore entitled to say they were dealing with a most remote contingency. Such a case was very unlikely to arise. But there was another Amendment which provided for a further contingency, he hoped even more improbable. Let them assume that the local authority had taken over a school on the terms provided in (*a*) and (*b*) and had not conferred the facilities though the school had been transferred, the relations between the school managers and the local authority might become strained — unhappy differences might arise, one party being supposed to be tyrannical and the other nagging and foolish. Such things did arise sometimes owing to the folly of people who engaged in a long correspondence with each other before the difficulty was reached. A little common sense on the spot, as a rule, got rid of these petty quarrels. Assuming, however, that the difficulties became sufficiently serious to make those interested in the school feel that their four-fifths facilities were really a sham, they might, after appeal, contract out, as it was called, or stand out, as the Government called it, and receive the Parliamentary grants only. He thought it was wise to insert this clause to show their good faith. He did not suppose the provisions for contracting out would include in any circumstances a serious number of schools; he ventured to hope they would not include any. These Amendments constituted a better and wiser scheme in the interests of all concerned than they could have by simply turning the word "may" into the word "shall." The advantages would be obvious. The Government Amendments secured that, if there was any difference as between the authority and a four-fifths school as to whether it should be taken over, there should be an appeal, with the result that, if in the opinion of the Board of Education the school should be taken over, it had to be taken over. In that sense it might become an obligation on the local authority to take over the school on the conditions and terms fixed by the Board of Education on the appeal. In the Bill, as introduced, there was no obligation, except in the case of schools held under an educational trust, which could not be carried out without transfer to the local authority, to come to an agreement for the taking over of a school. Everything was voluntary. The rent was a matter of bargain between the parties, and if they came to no terms the bargain would be off. Having altered all that, and made it possible by appeal to the Board of Education that the local authority should be required to take the school over, the Government held it to be much fairer and more conducive to voluntary arrangements to say at once that in these four-fifths schools the question of rent should not become an opportunity of haggling between parties, but should be eliminated. The Government also had an Amendment as to the ballot, the object of which was to safeguard and secure condition (*a*). He did not suppose anyone would object to a ballot being taken in order that there might be no doubt that the wishes of the parents had been genuinely and properly ascertained. In the same interest it was proposed to provide that no child should be reckoned who had not been in average attendance for six months. The object was plain and clear. It was to prevent any manipulation or moving about of the children from one school to another simply for the purpose of obtaining those facilities, which would most certainly interfere with the ascertaining of the genuine denominational character of the school. As soon as that had been ascertained by ballot there would be no difficulty in satisfying any person that the school which had stood that ordeal was the very kind of school contemplated by the machinery of this particular clause. These Amendments were, he submitted, better calculated than the Amendment to give effect to the desire of hon. Gentlemen opposite, and his own desire and that of the Government that the facilities contemplated should be genuine.

LORD EDMUND TALBOT (Sussex, Chichester) said he had asked the leave of his right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition to intervene in the debate now because he was not allowed, by his doctor's orders, to remain in the House for any length of time. He was very anxious to be allowed to say one or two words from the Catholic point of view with reference to these proposals of the Minister for Education. He looked at the question of Clause 4 entirely at this moment from the point of view of his Catholic co-religionists. He might say at once that these proposals of the Government had been received by the Catholic body with great disappointment and much surprise. They thought—they were led to believe, in fact—that it was admitted by the Government that Clause 4 was inserted in the Bill for the purpose of meeting their case. They would very much like to know whether at the time the Government inserted that clause, and at the time the right hon. Gentleman received the Jewish deputation, he was aware that that clause, instead of meeting the Catholic case, destroyed practically one half of their schools. If the Government, in drafting their clause, were not aware of that fact, then the Catholics felt that they had some right, even though a minority, to ask to have it explained why the clause had not been altered for the purpose of meeting their case. As the clause stood, nearly one-fourth of their schools were absolutely cut out by the 5,000 limitation. Practically another fourth of their schools were wiped out by the four-fifths limitation. As a matter of fact, practically one-half of their schools, instead of being helped by this clause, were destroyed, and ceased to exist as Catholic schools. With regard to the new proposals, they were anxious to know what effect sub-section (*b*) had on them. It did not appear to him and his co-religionists that there was any security that these Amendments would be operative unless the local education authority were compelled to find accommodation for the one-fifth balance in the school. That was a point on which they would like some enlightenment. They would also like to know how these Amendments were going to apply to new schools. They did not see in the proposals of the Government wherein——

*THE CHAIRMAN: I am afraid I must stop the noble Lord. We cannot discuss new schools on Clause 4. They come in Clause 5.

LORD EDMUND TALBOT said he apologised if he had gone too far. Might he ask the Government to explain on what principle they made the limitation of the 5,000 area? It seemed to Catholics that the Government were putting a different value on the soul of a country child as compared with that of a town child. They wanted to know on what principle, in places where there was a Catholic school outside the 5,000 limitation, and in the same locality another school, the Catholics in that locality were to have meted out to them different treatment from what they would have in an urban area. With reference to the proposal of contracting out, the new Amendments, he admitted, might have in theory some attractions. In the form in which it was put in this Amendment it meant starvation. It was unfair and cruel on the teachers, unless the Government accepted the Amendment which the hon. Member for North Camberwell had very rightly and properly put down on behalf of his own profession. But if the Government did accept that Amendment, then the scheme, so far as the Catholics were concerned, was absolutely unworkable. It was unfair to the children, because it cut them out and deprived them of taking their share in the scholarships and in the general advantages to be gained in the district in which they lived. And all this was done at the expense of depriving Catholics of the rent. It appeared to some of them, at any rate, that the proposed abolition of the rent clause, to which the right hon. Gentleman had alluded, was very near breaking the promise given by the Government. If he might be allowed, he should like before he sat down to read Resolutions which had been passed by the Watching Committee of the Catholic Educational Councils on these new Amendments, and which had the approval of the Catholic bishops. These Resolutions were passed on Saturday last. The first was—

> "That the Committee, having considered the proposed Government Amendments to Clause 4, is of opinion that they fail to meet any of the substantial objections which the council have already submitted to the bishops as being among the grounds upon which in their opinion the Bill ought to be opposed."

Secondly—

> "Having considered the effect of the proposals to set up a class of State-aided schools, the Committee is of opinion that the provisions for establishing such a class as set out in the Government Amendments are open to the same objections as caused the Committee to pass on June 18th the following Resolution: 'That the Committee, having considered the probability of a system of contracting out of the Education Bill being proposed for the acceptance of the Catholic body, declares that any such proposal must be opposed as strongly as the Bill as it stands, unless it be accompanied by adequate Government grants having regard to the cost of education in the provided schools of the respective areas.'"

Lastly—

> "The Committee therefore submit that the Government's Amendments to Clause 4 as set out in the Parliamentary Papers of June 23rd be opposed."

These Resolutions, as he had said, had the approval of the bishops of his Church. In their opinion the only practical result of the new proposals was that they deprived them of the rent promised in the Bill, and gave an appeal to the Board of Education with the only possible result that that Board could give them an order to starve.

MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.) said it had been alleged that this Amendment would be an excrescence on the Bill. He believed that it would be nothing of the kind; it was really an essential part of the whole. Under Clause 1, how did the voluntary schools stand? After the Committee passed that portion of the Bill, it was pointed out that unless such words as "except in so far as subsequent clauses would alter their condition" were accepted these schools would be wiped out of existence. They would receive no recognition, they would be eliminated from the State system; they would not get any Exchequer grants or even have a right to that portion of the rates which the Catholic owners of the schools and the parents attending them had paid. It was obvious that except in the rare instances of endowed Catholic schools, or Catholic schools provided by wealthy patrons, the Catholic schools would be wiped out by Clause 1 unless they were revived by some special provisions. Clause 2 was the first attempt to provide for the essential work of revivification. The Government acknowledged that it was not their intention to wipe out these schools, but to make provision for the continuance of the work of education in the buildings of the voluntary schools. They recognised the rights of the owners and parents of the children attending these schools; but the words of the clause, after a long discussion, did not carry out the intention of the Government. It was said that the Catholics ought to have faith that the voluntary measure would be acted on and would be accepted by the local authorities, and that to impose compulsion on the local authorities would be harmful and intolerable. It was on the same principle that they were now asked to accept Clause 4, "save in so far as subsequent Amendments should be incorporated in that clause." That being the clause for the resuscitation of the Catholic schools, they must carefully scrutinise both the original provisions and the proposed Amendments. The Catholic case generally was that the great principle of admission, subject to such conditions and stipulations as this House might determine, should be defined and settled here in this central Parliament. It was here and here alone that the voice of the whole country could determine on what general terms and principles a settlement of this great educational question could be accomplished. He thought the House of Commons would not be equal to its great position if it threw into the hands of local areas and local education authorities, not elected for educational purposes only, a task to which it had been itself unequal. No greater humiliation could be put on the House of Commons than that it should abdicate its position in this way. The Amendment of the hon. Member, which he supported, asserted the view that the principle of admission should be placed beyond the power of the local authorities. Purely administrative questions might be dealt with by the local areas and local education authorities, although their decisions even on these questions were not to be final. But the primary principle of admission should be settled by Parliament and so also should the provisions of Clause 4 be made mandatory. These two parts of the question were entirely distinct, all that part connected with the design—whether the school was to be taken over under the limitations prescribed — being quite distinct from the other. The appeal on those questions which were to be in the first instance decided by the local authority was a great improvement and an essential security. But that did not in the least modify the objection of Roman Catholics to leaving to the local authority the decision as to whether a school should be admitted. That was their position on the clause as originally produced, and they had to ask themselves whether anything had taken place which would justify them in withdrawing from that position—the abandonment of Amendments on the subject of "shall" instead of "may" in order that they might adopt as satisfactory the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman. These facilities concerned more vitally than those of any other denomination, except perhaps the Jews, the Roman Catholic schools. Very large facilities were given to the schools of the Roman Catholic denomination under Clause 3, but they were of small or no importance; but the facilities under Clause 4 were to them the essential part of the Bill. There was no foundation so far as their information went for the view that the facilities under Clause 4 as it stood would apply to more than about half the Roman Catholic schools, which made it still more essential that where they did apply they should be made operative. Therefore, when the time came it would be their duty to move Amendments which would make these facilities applicable to a larger number of schools. Probably less than half the Roman Catholic schools would come within the four-fifths Clause, and that in his judgment would be a most deplorable condition of things, which would demand consideration at the appropriate time, rendering it far more essential for them to see that in the comparatively limited number of schools where it could come into operation, the clause should be made as effective as it could possibly be. Let the Committee consider for a moment what the condition of things was in which it was to become effective. What was the character of the school population that existed, and was to be dealt with? It was a school containing Jews, Roman Catholics, or others. The others were provided for else where, and it was therefore only those of one faith with whom this clause dealt. So far as they dealt with them for the purposes of secular education they observed the right rules for efficiency and saw that the State got an educated citizen. The only privilege these children of one faith had was that their education should be conducted simultaneously with the religious training of their own faith. How many Members of this House were there who in their calm and considered moments would think that it was otherwise than right and just that under these conditions the religion of the children should be taught in a way which their pastors and parents believed was the only way in which it could be effectively taught in the schools? That was the proposition the principle of which he wanted recognised by Parliament by a declaration of the right to have facilities if the conditions were complied with. Why should they throw it as a bone of contention to the different areas, to be decided with all the heat and bitterness that this question raised, without the light and instruction of this great central Parliament acting for all? Why not declare in favour of religious freedom, which could do no harm to any man, woman, or child? Why not settle the question once and for all by taking it out of the hands of the local authorities and not inviting them to exercise an option as they were invited by the Bill as drawn? Why should it be said that this great principle could not be declared once and for all? Right hon. and hon. Gentlemen had said that they did not believe that this was a case in which the local authorities, if they had the power, would care to exercise it. If there was such an overwhelming opinion in that direction, was not that an overwhelming reason for settling it once and for all? He thought the obvious duty of Parliament was not to throw this bone of contention to the local authorities. His view was that the declaration of the principle which they hoped to accomplish by the passing of this Amendment, and the appeal to the central authority could do more than anything else that he could suggest to obviate unjust treatment in those matters which in a primary state were left in the control of the local authorities. They must not permit the details of this measure to be made the pretext for a reconsideration of the principles which had already in theory been grafted on to an Act of Parliament. There must be an appeal to the central authority, because, Parliament having decided how the general point should be settled by a legislative Act, there must be reserved a final appeal to the central authority with the same responsibility, the same broad view, and the same constitution. He agreed with the right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Education that the introduction of an appeal was an important improvement. As to the proposal of a ballot, some form must be adopted to determine whether four-fifths desired this change; he supposed that it was to be done by a vote, and, for his part, he had not a word to say against the ballot. The next was a most important provision — that in cases in which there were four-fifths in favour of facilities, those facilities should be granted. But there was to be no payment of rent at all. The Minister for Education would excuse him for saying that he could not characterise that proposal otherwise than as mean and shabby. He submitted that the large use of the buildings by the trustees might involve some question of rent to be paid by the education authority for the use of buildings during the remaining time. That was a question just as much as the use that was given on Saturday and Sunday. But let them take the substance of the section. The authority obtained by this arrangement the use of the buildings for all the purposes for which it was entitled to interfere. Was it to pay nothing for that to the owners who had built and improved the schools under circumstances of peculiar difficulty? Was it possible that Parliament would adopt that view? Although to those for whom he spoke this question was of great importance, he admitted that their primary object was to obtain that freedom of religious instruction which they believed to be essential; and if they were to be told that they were to be deprived of portion of the rent, if that was the price that Parliament was going to exact for religious freedom, he was sure that rather than go without the facilities they would pay the extorted price. But before it was decided to demand that price, let them consider whether it was a wise course to take. It was possible there might be some advantage from that course of action; it was possible that it might lead to the easier making of bargains. Their cardinal objection was that there was no declaration at present of a right or duty to give these general facilities. In the clauses providing for appeal there were some words which might indicate that facilities were to be given, but they left it open. He agreed with those who said that schools which, upon appeal to the Board of Education, might be contracted out, and only entitled to State aid and not rate aid, would in most cases be exposed to absolute starvation. No one doubted that schools that were defective in structural facilities, in educational arrangements, and in salaries to teachers would be allowed to lag behind. If those schools were not taken over by the local authority, and if on appeal to the Board of Education the answer they were to receive was "Go out," they would be turned out into the wilderness. The Education Board put a glass of water and a loaf of bread in their hands and turned them out with those supplies as their portion, but they were to continue to pay the rates for all the schools in their area. What was to be done with their share of the rates? Was it to be handed back to them to carry on, at any rate so far as their own share of the rates was concerned, that public work which they were bound to do efficiently for the satisfaction of the State, so that the population of this country might be educated? It was to be put into the pockets of the other ratepayers whose children went to the provided schools. The burden of the wealthy was to be lightened and that of the poor increased. He called the provision about no rent shabby and mean. This was what the right hon. Gentleman asked them in effect to be grateful for. Under these conditions they might well contend that in the name of conscientious scruple those other ratepayers of the area should decline to receive and put into their own pockets the rates paid by the parents of the Catholic children. He would have liked to have seen a nearer approach to justice introduced into the Bill. These contracted-out schools, however efficient the education they gave and however good the structure of the premises, were not to receive a shilling from the public purse. Under these circumstances it was clear that they were bound to deal with the Amendment before them as a declaration of principle which Parliament ought to make.

Mr. PAUL (Northampton) supported the Amendment of the hon. Member with the greatest freedom, though he hoped less responsibility, because he received no support from any of his Nonconformist friends when he endeavoured to oppose the third clause of the Bill, drawn unwisely and unskilfully, as he thought, for the exclusive benefit of the Church to which he belonged. The clause did not apply alone to the Church on behalf of which the hon. Member for South Longford had so eloquently pleaded. It applied to the Church of England, Wesleyans, and Jews. In the course of these debates he did not think the efforts of the clergymen of the Church of England in the cause of education had always received sufficient justice. By the accident of birth he knew as much about those efforts as any man in the House. The man whom of all others in the world he most honoured and revered had been for more than sixty years a clergyman of the Church of England. During the whole of that time he had taken an active interest in education, secular as well as religious. He took it long before Parliament recognised its duty in the Act of 1870, and there were hundreds of other clergymen like him in all parts of England. When he saw the President of the Board of Education reproached for not having bestowed more compliments on the Church of England he was inclined to ask himself whether an established and endowed Church, an ancient and a privileged body, would be likely or willing to accept or to ask for praise of that kind. They might as well request a few kind words on behalf of the British Constitution. The Church of England, moreover, was not only a Protestant Church; it was an Erastian Church, prepared and almost bound to accept such reasonable form of Protestant faith as the wisdom of Parliament might prescribe. He did not think he could deny, if he were driven with his back to the wall, that this was a Christian and Protestant Bill. It followed from that that they owed some little indulgence to the Jews and Catholics. The Jews in this country were a body of very wealthy men. But was that the case with the Catholics? It was very much the reverse. No Church in this country had spent more money and time in the cause of education than the Roman Catholic. But many of them were exceedingly poor. If we were to force upon them a form of religious teaching which they would not accept, their schools would have to be either supported out of their poverty or altogether closed. When he said this was a Protestant Bill he meant that simple Christian teaching—which he very much preferred to the phrase "simple Bible teaching," because there was a great deal of the Bible quite unsuited to children—given by laymen was suitable to all Protestant churches, but with the Roman Catholics it was not so. The authority of the Church in matters of religion was part of the Roman Catholic faith, and this kind of teaching was by her regarded as worse than nothing. To use a homely simile, it was like offering a man a cigarette after a good meal—it was not an imperfect form of enjoyment; it was a mockery of a real need. He did not so much share the mistrust of the local authorities expressed by the hon. Member for Aston Manor. He believed ninety-nine hundredths of them would do absolute justice as between Protestant and Catholic. But he took rather the view expressed by the hon.

Member for South Longford that there might be here and there some unreasonable body which might, if left to itself, throw the whole machinery of the Act out of gear. If he were a lawyer he should "pray in aid" the speech of the President of the Board of Education on the Amendment which his right hon. friend was nominally opposing, for the whole gist of his argument was that they must, in the last resort, have recourse to a mandamus in the King's Bench, and he asked in what part of this country the King's writ did not run. The ultimate resource, therefore, under the Bill, as under the Amendment, was compulsion. Then was it not more reasonable that the House should do simply, directly, and at once, what in any case it would have to do indirectly and in the long run? Surely it was no disparagement of local authorities to say that in a great measure of national policy, a question of the highest principle Parliament must itself decide. In a case of this kind, involving the fate of a large number of schools scattered up and down the country, belonging to a Church whose members had cheerfully paid rates and taxes for teaching other people's religion, and therefore had some claim that public money should be devoted to teaching their own—in a case of that kind he did not say that Parliament would be cowardly, but it would be derogating from its own high responsibility if it did not decide this matter for itself once and for all. This was a far graver question than the mere arrangement of items in a curriculum; it went to the bottom, to the radical principle upon which education rests, to questions which were agitated long before these religious controversies which excited perhaps undue interest now, questions which led the greatest of all philosophers to say, long before religious sects began to brawl, that education was not filling the mind with knowledge, but turning the eye of the soul towards the light.

Mr. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square) said he regarded Clause 4 as one of the most vital and important clauses in the Bill, principally because he believed in denominational education, and also because he had some distrust of facilities which allowed a great number of doctrines to be presented concurrently in the schools. He felt fully the force of what the hon. Member for North Camberwell said the other day about the common religious lesson, and he would be glad if there could be that common lesson in most of their schools, because he desired to see Clause 4 effective and operative. He desired that the Catholics, the Jews, the Anglicans and the Wesleyans who had schools, should be able to maintain them in their integrity and have in them a common atmosphere and a common social religious spirit which might be engendered by their teaching. So far from fortifying Clause 4 the Amendments to be proposed by the Government seemed to be in fatal derogation of it. Many Nonconformists regarded it as intolerable that they should be called upon to pay rates for other people's religion. ["Hear hear," from the MINISTERIAL Benches.]

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.): Do as you would be done by.

Mr. LYTTELTON said that was their point of view, and he had not the faintest doubt that that belief would find root in the minds of numerous local authorities. The Minister of Education had throughout the discussions on the Bill recognised and even contemplated acute hostility to Clause 4 on the part of the local authorities.

Mr. BIRRELL: The possibility of it.

Mr. LYTTELTON thought that, having regard to Nonconformist opinion, it was a certainty that there would be strenuous opposition, and passive resistance was at the bottom of the feeling. What was the position created by the Amendment? Where there was a preponderance of four-fifths of the parents of any particular denomination, the local authority had only to say, "We will not come into your arrangement and we refuse it," and then there would be an appeal. The Board of Education could either reverse the decision of the local authorities or they could make the school a State-aided school. What was the President of the Board of Education likely to do? The right hon. Gentleman knew what it would mean to threaten people with imprisonment for disobeying an Order of the King's Bench. He knew that Nonconformists and others were quite willing to go to prison rather than pay a rate for the establishment and maintenance of a Roman Catholic school. If that state of things arose, what would be the position of the Board of Education, provided they were human beings, as he supposed they were? Of course they would shrink from the remedy of mandamus and resort to starving out Roman Catholic schools by reducing them to absolute difficulties.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Robbing the Catholics.

Mr. LYTTELTON said it was perfectly clear that a department would always take the line of least resistance. There were some departments in the past to which that general indictment did not apply, but as a general rule it was quite true. They had this local authority with local knowledge and prejudice against the Roman Catholic schools and denominational schools which were Anglican or Jewish. Then there was the natural pressure which they could bring to bear in the locality, and there was the mandamus with all its terrors in the distance and to which no department ever wished to resort. Against all these difficulties they were to have an appeal to a department whose general policy was against denominational schools and against the poor people who in the future would have not only to continue the struggle to keep their own schools, but also to tax themselves for the benefit of other schools which must under this clause exist and compete with them. That was the sort of thing that was hailed with applause by those who were anxious to attack denominational education. Was there ever a stranger method adopted of trying to satisfy those who were not content with Clause 4 as it stood in its permissive condition, and endeavouring to abate the hostility they must naturally feel to the non-mandatory character of the clause? He most emphatically urged the Committee not to be taken in by this extraordinary and illusory provision. There was no excuse for anyone being taken in after the speech of the Minister for Education, who was nothing if not candid. He told them that if a difficulty arose in the enforcement of their remedy there was behind them the State-aided school. What a preposterous admission! That was the very thing they had been contemplating all along, namely, the opposition of the locality to the clause and to the denominational schools and the attempt to enforce it by the Board of Education. Assuming that Board was willing to attempt to reverse the decision of the local authority, then there would be resistance by the local authority passive or active, and the Government Department placed in this position was not to enforce that which they had decided to be just, namely, the reversal of the local authority's decision, but were to return to the pre-1902 state, which every hon. Member who really understood the educational problem and every single expert regarded as a disastrous condition of struggling poverty which men submitted to who conscientiously desired to maintain the faith of their fathers.

*Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said that after the Second Reading of the Bill he put down an Amendment to substitute "shall" for "may." He did not think that in this there was a matter of very high principle involved, but he thought it was a matter of administrative convenience. The Bill provided that four-fifths of the parents of the children must petition, and there was now to be a ballot to see that the petition was a genuine one. The children must have been at the schools six months and if extended facilities were granted there would be no rental. He ventured to think that was a very fair proposal. In the four-fifths schools they would get denominational religious instruction every day. Under the Bill if the managers got a teacher to volunteer they would be in the future as they were now, in the matter of religious education if the local education authority agreed, and he hoped they would agree.

MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans): The teacher might be a Mahommedan.

*DR. MACNAMARA said the clause provided that the teacher might be a volunteer for giving religious instruction. In regard to religious teaching these schools would be substantially just as well off as they were now. Besides, they would be financially much better off under the Bill than before. Under the Act of 1902 the wear and tear of the buildings was a charge upon the public authority, while under this Bill in addition to the wear and tear the public was compelled to pay for the upkeep of the fabrics which, according to the late Bishop of Manchester, amounted to £700,000 a year for Church Schools alone. Therefore it seemed to him that Roman Catholics and other denominationalists would be better off than before. Over and above that it had to be remembered that the denominationalists would have the free use of the buildings two days of the week, and at least four nights of the week. The proposal that there should be no rental was a fair one under the circumstances. But why not make the clause mandatory? Clause 3 was going to be mandatory in effect. The Minister for Education said the other day—

> "I still have it in my mind if it can be done—and I think it can—to propose a new clause by an amendment of Clause 2, which will make it perfectly clear that the local authority, if it chooses, may take over a school and grant those facilities."

He disagreed with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the City of London. He did not think the local authority would be pig-headed when they came down to actual committee work. A great many people were pig-headed on the platform, but it was a curious fact that men of all shades of politics and religion, when they sat down together day by day to the work of actual administration were able amicably to settle matters. which they did not seem to be able to come within a thousand miles of settling in this House. He thought that in every local authority, however, there might be one pig-headed individual. There would always be some crank or pig-headed individual who every time the matter came up would make a long and acrimonious speech as to whether these facilities should be given or not; he would squabble over this matter at local elections. In the interest of local government, and not of high principle—that was gone long ago—the clause as regards the first "may" should be turned into "shall." The question was as to harmonious working in the locality, and the Board of Education, or rather the President of the Board, had said that he would grant an appeal to the Board of Education. So far so good, but it was a roundabout way of getting the same thing for those who thought that they had no security. What he desired, and what he should certainly vote for, was that the Government should make "may" into "shall" in this line. The alternative of contracting-out under the clause had been ingeniously styled by somebody as the safety valve of Clause 4. He confessed that he was more than amazed that a proposition of that sort should come from the Government—that schools should be able to stand outside and yet receive State grants. That proposal went diametrically across the first clause which was the backbone of the Bill. It provided—

> "On and after the first day, of January one thousand nine hundred and eight, a school shall not be recognised as a public elementary school unless it is a school provided by the local education authority."

Therefore those schools which contracted-out would not be public elementary schools provided by the local authority. He had yet to learn how the Government could propose to give any Government grants to these schools seeing that they were not public elementary schools. That was a matter which would ultimately have to be considered, and Clause 1 would have to be materially modified to make this proposal consistent with it. He strenuously pressed this matter on educational grounds. It was wholly alien to the principles of Liberalism that there should be schools which derived nine-tenths of their income from public sources and yet were outside of public local control. The Act of 1902 did bring these schools to a small extent within the area of public supervision and control. The proposal now brought forward by a Liberal Government was to push them outside, and the parson was once more to become the one-man manager, and the teacher was to be appointed under religious tests. He was elected to see that religious tests were abolished in the case of teachers; and he was going to get them abolished. He did not see how the proposal of the Government was defensible in any way on Liberal principles. Previous to 1902 the teachers in the voluntary schools were paid 20 per cent. below the teachers in the provided schools. Many of the local authorities had, with great generosity, put the teachers in the non-provided schools on the same footing as those in the provided schools. This proposal would, in the vast majority of cases, send these teachers back again to the old scale of payment in the voluntary schools after having had two or three years well-deserved remuneration at the higher salaries. This was an amazing proposal to bring before the Committee. He was conscientiously bound to speak frankly and strongly upon it. If adopted, it would be disastrous to educational efficiency unless they could surround it with most scrupulously devised safeguards. It would be even more disastrous to the denominations, and he should be surprised if any denomination gave support to such a proposal. The schools had been four years under the rates. The maintenance of the schools had gone up by 20 per cent. How could they maintain the level of efficiency which would be properly demanded now, if compelled to contract out. Once more the children of the country were to be sacrificed because some obscurantists wanted to reduce the rates and some denominationalists wanted to tighten their grip on the schools. The right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education had said this would only happen under special circumstances and in rare cases. He was perfectly confident that the President of the Board of Education did not realise—not the religious bitterness of the local authorities, for he did not think that would come into play much when once they had got to work behind closed doors—but the desire of the local education authorities to get a reduction of the rates. Every school they could compel to contract-out would mean a reduction of the rates, and the local authorities in order to get the rates reduced would make the conditions under Clause 4 so onerous as to compel the denominationalists to contract-out. For thirty-two years many of the local authorities successfully dodged the education rate; they said that they preferred denominational teaching. He thought Lancashire was a classical example of that policy.

MR. HAROLD COX (Preston) dissented.

*DR. MACNAMARA said Preston was one of the worst instances in the whole country. When he went to speak at Preston, some ten years ago, he had given to him a leaflet signed by the Mayor stating that Preston had never succumbed to the Godless school board system. Let Preston, said the Mayor, never lose the proud privilege of giving the children denominational teaching. But a postcript in heavy clarendon type stated that unless the denominational system was maintained there would be a sixpenny school board rate. That was the real trouble. He had supported the Act of 1902 right through for the reason that that did put these schools on the rates, though he admitted certain vital concomitants were omitted. That was what made the Act unpopular. If there had been more money in the central Exchequer—the South African war made that impossible—and the right hon. Gentleman opposite could have put his Bill of 1902 on the central Exchequer, throughout the great bulk of the country and particularly in those areas which never had a rate before they would not have had much passive resistance. The whole thing had arisen because of hostility to the local rate. The religious phase of the problem moved only a small number of very zealous people. Let them be frank about this matter. He was most anxious about the far-reaching effect of this proposal. People desired to keep rates at the lowest level, and the designedly onerous conditions made by local authorities would drive these schools to contract-out if this proposal were allowed to stand. He viewed the whole proposal, therefore, with the greatest apprehension, and a great deal of disappointment.

He did not like to go the length of saying that he viewed it with disgust, but he viewed it with a very near approach to that. He thought there could be nothing worse for the country than that they should set out to make a national system, then push these schools outside of local supervision, and allow them to have nine-tenths of their income from public sources without any scrap of local control. That was a thoroughly bad proposal. He was surprised at the quarter from which the proposal came. He asked the President of the Board of Education what sort of guarantee could he get that these poor people would have sufficient income from private sources in addition to the Government grant to keep their schools up to the level of the provided schools in the area? He asked him what sort of provision would he make for the teachers in those schools? He maintained that these schools would have gone long ago had it not been for the zeal and self-sacrifice of the voluntary school teachers who had formerly been paid 20 per cent. below the salaries of other teachers in the same locality. What assurance was the right hon. Gentleman going to give the Committee that the teachers in the schools which were to be thrust out, would be paid a fair day's pay for a fair day's work or that they would have their present salaries secured to them? He put the matter very strongly, he hoped not offensively, but he maintained that the proposals of the right hon. Gentleman were reactionary, and he was extremely sorry that they had ever been made by a Liberal front bench.

Mr. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) said that the present Amendment was of very considerable importance; but not a single word, except by the right hon. Gentleman, had been said against it. That fact alone should make hon. Gentlemen on the Ministerial benches pause before they gave their consent to the propositions put forward by the Minister for Education. He agreed with much that had been said by the hon. Member for North Camberwell, but he wished to enter a caveat against the argument that they should trust the local authorities on the question of rent seeing that under Clause 4 the voluntary schools would get quite as good advantages as they had before. He would point out that that was not so. So far as they knew, the religious instruction under Clause 4 was to be paid for by the denominations, and if that teaching was to be given by the teachers there was no provision in the Bill which ensured that those teachers should be such as could give the religious teaching nominally provided for under the clause. The rent question did not affect the Church of England schools as much as those of other denominations. In one or two instances in Kent, in which the question of rent would arise, the Education Department had issued an instalment of a Return from which it would be seen what was the position of the Education Department. In that return 480 voluntary schools were dealt with, 375 of which the officials of the Department said were bound by educational trusts. If that were so the statement of the right hon. Gentleman was fairly possible, that the rent for these schools would be only a pepper-corn rent. Therefore it was very likely that for only 5 per cent. of the schools would any rent be got at all. He thought that in these circumstances longer time for the discussion of the financial proposals in the Bill was more than ever necessary. The Committee must be made aware of what was the use that was to be made of the £1,000,000 that was to be voted. It would be within the recollection of the Committee that, during the consideration of Clause 2, the President of the Board of Education said that when Clauses 3 and 4 came on for discussion, many of the difficulties that had arisen under Clause 2 would be got out of the way; and that he hoped the gap the existence of which he admitted would be filled up in regard to the local authorities taking over efficient schools; but under the proposed new Amendments instead of the gap being filled up it had been made wider than ever. He would be very glad to ascertain whether or not the State-aided schools which were described as "transferred voluntary schools" would come under Clause 2. That was a very important point if they were to be deprived of rent, of any share of the rates, and of any advantage of having the fabric of the schools maintained. They had heard of the intolerable strain as the cause of the Act of 1902, especially on the voluntary schools in the rural parts of the country, but it was these same schools that were being cut out from the application of this Bill if it became law. He entirely agreed with the hon. Member for North Camberwell so far as the unfortunate position of the teachers was concerned under the new Amendments; and he could not understand how hon. Gentlemen on the Ministerial Benches could defend the system proposed to be established. He insisted that the clause was very difficult to follow, and that it was almost impossible to tell how the Education Department was to find out the desires of the parents or to trace out the exact moment at which the scheme should be made applicable. It seemed to him that Clause 4 should be made mandatory, and that it should be laid down that the local authorities should not be put in a position in which they could act, in the words of the right hon. Gentleman himself, in a manner that was not just, righteous, or fair. For these reasons he respectfully suggested that the Government ought to accept the Amendment.

Mr. BELLOC (Salford, S.) said that this was a practical matter, and one that was more than ordinarily difficult because it related to the future. Nearly every argument that had been used in favour of making Clause 4 mandatory had been presented on some supposed action which the local authorities would take in the future. He could not say too strongly not only for himself, but for many Catholics who voted Liberal at the last election, and who would vote Liberal again, that they as a rule trusted the local authorities. They recognised that the resistance to the Act of 1902 was an attempt on the part of Nonconformists to remedy a grievance which might easily have been remedied. He admitted that there might be cases in which a pig-headed local authority, or even a pig-headed individual on a local authority, might bring this system of national control into contempt and to a deadlock. The question was whether the Committee would consent to get rid of that deadlock by making the clause mandatory or by giving under the Bill a power of appeal to the Board of Education. In either case there would have to be coercion, and whether that coercion was contained within the four corners of the Bill or attained by an administrative dodge was of little importance. For himself he would say that so far as he knew, the value of those different methods of procedure was very nearly equal. If some local authority did not want to keep up a four-fifths school it would not be blind to the action of the Board of Education under the Bill and it would not be blind to the other remedy which might be afforded. On the whole, however, he thought it would be more straightforward, more logical, and more in accordance with his pledges to maintain the rights of Catholic schools if he voted in favour of the clause being made mandatory.

*__Sir FRANCIS POWELL__ (Wigan) said he had among his constituents a large body of Roman Catholics, and, admiring as he did their work in the cause of education, he felt sympathy with them in reference to the present situation. He hoped this clause would be made mandatory, because the decisions of local authorities were eminently uncertain and liable to be changed from election to election. Those who lived in the West Riding of Yorkshire had had occasion to lament the policy of the county council which they regarded as unjust, while their action was harsh. The High Court had also condemned it as illegal. How could he support a proposition which would give a county council of that kind discretion in regard to the facilities to be granted under this clause? Local control entailed debate on all subjects of education. With a purely secular system it might be possible to keep religious questions out of the arena, but if they admitted religion into the schools the subject could not be kept out from local controversy. He desired to minimise everything which would tend to arouse ill-feeling, and therefore he opposed the proposals of the Government, believing that they would cause strife and the separation of people who ought to be able to work together to promote education for the young.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) said that all the speeches to which they had listened in that debate had been in favour of the Amendment for inserting the word "shall" as against "may." At the risk, however, of being called a "pig-headed individual" he ventured to say a word in favour of the retention of the word "may." He would point out that many hon. Gentlemen who spoke originally in condemnation of Clause 4 now spoke in favour of making it mandatory. He thought the local education authorities would not be as ready as some hon. Members supposed to divest themselves of responsibility in order to save a little rate. He thought on the contrary that the local education authorities would have the tendency to keep all the power they possibly could. He was not in favour of contracting-out, but if it were a choice between two evils he preferred it to having the clause made mandatory. But he regarded the clause, as a whole, as a very bad one, whether contracting out was allowed or not. Nonconformists had in the past objected to pay rates for teaching other people's religion, but they did not ask other people to pay rates for teaching their religion. He had always spoken in favour of leaving all religious education in the hands of the Church and taking it away from the hands of the State. The representatives of Nonconformists disputed the assertion that it was important in the interests of education that mere denominational religion should be taught in the school. They disputed it, as they believed, in the interests of education, because they thought that if they were going to try and safeguard religion by Clause 4 they would create strife, ill-feeling, and objection to that kind of religious teaching by the State, and in the long run do more harm than good. At any rate he believed with all his heart that no Nonconformist would ask anyone to pay rates for the teaching of his religion. It was said that the religion taught in council schools was Nonconformist religion, but it was a most extraordinary statement to make. If it was brought home to Nonconformists generally that the religion taught in Council schools was Nonconformist as opposed to Anglican or Catholic he was convinced that practically all Nonconformists would agree that the only solution would be secular education. He believed Clause 4 was a valuable concession to the denominationalists. Previous speakers had all minimised it, but he thought it was a great deal, and he was afraid it gave away the position of the teachers. He would oppose the Amendment, and he hoped the Government would not yield on this point. It was extraordinary that Clauses 2 and 3 were now found to be absolutely mandatory though they had thought they were both optional. He hoped the Committee would save the situation in regard to the fourth clause.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said the hon. Member for the Morley Division had said that Nonconformists did not desire in the slightest degree that their religion should be taught at other people's expense. He accepted the statement quite freely, and he would tell him in return that the position of Catholics was that they claimed that their money should not be taken from them for the maintenance of schools where Protestant religion was taught. It had been stated—and the statement had apparently given some offence to hon. Gentlemen opposite,—that Cowper-Temple teaching was in reality Nonconformist religion. He did not make that statement himself, but he did say that whether it was near the Nonconformist religion or not it certainly was a form of Protestantism, and, as such, Catholics ought not to be called upon to pay for its support. If the President of the Board of Education succeeded in the Amendment which he had placed on the Paper, a number of the Catholic schools of this country would be placed back in the position in which they were before 1902; that was to say, they would have to pay once more largely out of their own pockets for the maintenance of their own schools, and at the same time they would be called upon to pay rates for the maintenance of the schools in which Cowper-Temple Protestant religion was taught. That was not justice towards the Catholic people of this country. The proposal that these schools, which were the result of the sacrifice of the savings of the poorest portion of the community, were to be penalised if the parents of the children attending those schools declared in favour of the religion in which they believed, was something which he never expected of the President of the Board of Education, or of a Government calling itself Liberal. These Catholic schools were, as had been said, a veritable wonder to behold. They had been built out of the scanty savings of the hardest working portion of the population. These people had suffered privation, and, in many cases, the pinch of hunger itself; and yet, no matter how they had to deprive themselves and their children of the ordinary necessaries of life, they always found sufficient to pay, as far as their means would allow, for the schools in which they believed their children would be taught that religion which was dearer to them almost than life According to the Amendment put on the Paper by the right hon. Gentleman they were told that if facilities were given for the teaching of religion in which the people firmly, passionately, and devotedly believed, no rent whatever was to be paid for the use of the school. A proposition of that kind was manifestly unjust. It came as a surprise to him at any rate, and he believed it would come as a shock and a surprise to the great majority of liberal-minded people of this country. Why should a school, the parents of the children attending which declared in favour of certain denominational education, be deprived of rent? Why should they not be placed in this matter upon the same footing as other schools? Why, in a word, should an effort be made, by the trick of withholding rent, to prevent the parents having their children taught the religion in which they believed? This one provision alone would do more perhaps than anything that had as yet occurred to inflame the feeling of the Catholic people with the idea that an injustice had been done to them. Did Liberal Members imagine that Roman Catholics would tamely submit to pay rates to maintain schools for religion to be taught in which they did not believe, while they themselves were to be deprived of all share of the rates? Did those Nonconformists who boasted so much about being passive resisters in regard to the Education Act of 1902, imagine that the Catholics would, out of their hard earnings, tamely pay not only for their own schools, but also for the schools which satisfied Nonconformists? Without in the least anticipating that there would or desiring for a single moment that there should be any trouble, he did say that the Catholic people would not tamely submit to a system so manifestly unjust. It would not be reasonable to believe that any considerable number of local authorities, because of religious prejudice, would shut out a section of the community from having the children properly educated; but he did know that there were places where the feeling of a portion of the community against the Catholic religion ran so high that pressure would be brought to bear upon the local authorities to shut out the Catholic schools. Surely it was not an unreasonable thing that they should ask Parliament, if it were satisfied that under certain circumstances certain religion should be taught, to say that it should be the law, and not leave it to small local authorities to decide. In the main he believed the local authorities of this country administered their ordinary work in an excellent manner, but those authorities were not originally intended to administer education or to decide upon questions of religion, and it was a perfectly monstrous thing to say that the question of religion was to be made an initial issue at local elections, as would be undoubtedly the case if this clause were not made mandatory. He appealed to hon. Members on the Ministerial side to have the courage of their convictions. He was certain every hon. Gentleman was anxious to deal fairly with the schools of every denomination and that, if every hon. Gentleman were free from Party and outside influences, he would declare that, as it had been deemed wise by Parliament that under certain circumstances in certain schools denominational teaching should be given, it should be incumbent upon the local authority to grant the necessary facilities. He would far sooner have the fourth clause made mandatory than any provision reverting to the position of 1902, unless a guarantee were given that they would not be called upon, in addition to paying for the maintenance of their own schools, to help to maintain schools supported by hon. Gentlemen on the Ministerial side. One matter at least for congratulation in the debate was the exhibition of fairness and good temper that had been displayed. He could assure hon. Gentlemen representing Nonconformists that they who represented the Catholic people had not the slightest atom of ill-will towards them. Their sympathies were for all people who had been unjustly and unfairly treated in the matter of conscience and religion. Hon. Gentlemen opposite had had their battles to fight and had had their dark days as the Catholic representatives had had theirs. He appealed to them to recognise that in the stand they were making the Irish Members were struggling for the recognition of that which was most dear to the people and something which they would never relinquish. The hon. Member for North Camberwell had said that he thought the Denominationalists were greedy. Could that be said of Catholics who asked that in the schools which they had built out of their savings and sacrifices their children should be taught that religion which they held dearer than life itself?

Mr. J. CHAMBERLAIN (Birmingham, W.) said they certainly found themselves in a very peculiar position. So far as he knew, not one single Member had risen from any part of the House to give any full support to the proposition of the Government. The only hon. Member who rose apparently to do so was the hon. Gentleman the Member for the Morley Division of the North-West Riding; but, although the hon. Gentleman supported the present form of the Bill so far as "may" was concerned, and expressed his preference for "may" over "shall," he coupled that assurance with a declaration that he was totally opposed to the whole of the clause in principle and was not, and never could be, a convert to it. That was an extremely exceptional position for a strong Government to find itself in in the discussion of their principal Bill. The result was to impress upon his mind what he had felt all along, that it was almost impossible to amend this Bill, that the Bill was drawn on wrong lines, and that upon those lines it was impossible to make a final settlement, which he did the right hon. Gentleman the justice to believe it had been his ambition to achieve. Taking the point they were discussing, although he would vote for the Amendment, he cared very little whether it was carried or not. The balance seemed to him, as to the hon. Member for South Salford, to lean on the side of the Amendment. But suppose the Amendment was not carried. In that case the clause, which he firmly believed was honestly introduced in order to give facilities in a large number of cases, and especially in the case of Catholic schools, would be illusory. If the Amendment remained the clause would be a sham. That was admitted, unconsciously if they liked, in all the speeches made in connection with this Amendment. There was not a single speaker on the Treasury Bench who had not admitted that if the clause was not made mandatory there might be, and there would be, local authorities who would refuse to give the facilities required. Then they proposed an elaborate scheme—so complicated that few outside the House not experts in the matter understood it—the effect of which would be to allow the schools which were not permitted by the local authority to enjoy the facilities to contract themselves out. In that case, as had been pointed out with unmistakable clearness by the hon. Member who had just sat down, they were doing a great injustice to those schools, whether Catholic or of any other denomination, by putting them in an impracticable position. He did not know that he agreed with what had been said about those schools being in an intolerable position in 1902; but whether they were or not at that time they would certainly be in an intolerable position now that they had to find double and treble the money which they found it impossible to find in other circumstances. If the clause remained as it was—a discretionary clause—it was illusory and would not be accepted by anybody as an adequate fulfilment of the pledge which they had all understood the Government to give.

If they accepted the Amendment and made the clause mandatory, then in the same spirit and for the same reasons they must go on to make other Amendments in the clause. That would be in strict accordance with the promises they had given. They must turn "may" into "shall." They must do away with those absurd and ridiculous and inconsistent and almost insulting distinctions between urban and other areas. They must do away with the absurd proposition that four-fifths of the parents might have a conscience and that three-fifths were not entitled to anything of the kind. All these things would have to be done away with. Then he granted that they would have carried out their pledges and have provided facilities by which the parents of the children who desired it would be able to obtain denominational teaching; they would have met the case of the Catholics; they would have met the case of the Jews; they would have met the case to a very large extent, he should think entirely, of the Anglican Church. But then what would the passive resisters say? They would have produced a Bill which would give more ground for passive resistance than anything in the Bill of 1902. They would have introduced a Bill in which they would altogether have neglected their great principle of the freedom of teachers from tests; they would have introduced a system in which they would not have given the public the control of the denominational schools. They would have made every person in the community pay for religious instruction of which he did not approve. That was the alternative to leaving the clause discretionary. If it was left discretionary it was a delusion and a sham, and if it was made mandatory it was not their Bill. The proposal made at an earlier period was their only possible solution. It was not, as he had ventured to say before, or it need not be, the secular solution. It was a separation between religious and secular instruction. That they had chosen to represent as the secular solution quite erroneously, and they had on that account condemned it. But unless they could, in some way or other, bring back the Bill to those lines or to a position in which procedure on those lines would be possible, they could not do justice between the religious sects of this country and they could not produce any final settlement.

*MR. SPICER (Hackney, Central) said he believed that Clause 4 was an honest attempt to meet a very difficult position, and for that reason he should support the Government in maintaining "may" as against "shall." Many of the speeches that afternoon had proceeded on the basis that the local authorities of the country were distrusted, and he was rather surprised. Whilst he gave hon. Members opposite full credit for doing everything in their power to uphold the Catholic religion, still Members on the Ministerial side had sacrificed something to give them the power they desired and had trusted them just as they asked hon. Members to trust local authorities now. Local authorities deserved well of this House, and they were doing better service than Parliament could do if they attempted to legislate for them. He did not admit that the clause contained everything that was attributed to it. It was a reasonable clause because it was to be worked under the local authority. A good deal of criticism had been read into it, because hon. Members thought of the present denominational majorities of non-provided schools rather than the ordinary action of local authorities. He supported the clause because it trusted local authorities and because he believed that they would not wish to burn their fingers in a conflict with the Roman Catholic Church. He therefore trusted that the House would uphold "may" as against "shall."

*SIR HENRY CRAIK (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) said his preference for a contracting-out provision in Clause 1, instead of on this clause, had been justified by the debate. When he proposed contracting-out it was as a voluntary act when a school had ample means for carrying on its work, but here it was a course to which a school would be driven in its extremity, without resources to meet its needs. The contracting-out he contemplated was not only voluntary, but it involved independent management. He asked the attention of the Minister for Education to this point. Did he or did he not intend that these schools, which were to lose the benefit of all share in the rates if they contracted out, were still to be managed largely by members of the local authority? Did the Amendment contain any provision about this at all? It left the school under the management of a body upon which the local authority would be largely represented, and yet the school would not share in the rates raised by that authority That was to say, the schools of the Roman Catholics and the Anglicans would be left to a very large extent under the management of the local authority, while at the same time they would not share in the benefit of the rates raised by the local authority. Thirdly, he would point out another matter which he thought the right hon. Gentleman had overlooked, and it was a very important one. In his Amendment the right hon. Gentleman declared that these schools were to share in the grant, but surely he had not turned his attention to the item of grant under Section 10 of the Act of 1902. What did the right hon. Gentleman mean to do with regard to that? There was no provision whatever by which the grant under Section 10 of the 1902 Act could be allocated to a particular school. It was to be allocated according to the scale only in respect of attendance at schools which were provided and managed by the local authority. This would involve an additional hardship upon the voluntary schools of the Roman Catholics and the Anglicans. They would get the annual grant under the Code, but they would be entirely deprived of their share of the £1,400,000 or £1,500,000 a year under the section he had mentioned. For these reasons he drew a strong distinction between the principle of contracting-out which he suggested, and that proposed by the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) said the Minister for Education appeared this afternoon to be in the position of a good man struggling with adversity. They all felt that the right hon. Gentleman was being put into a very painful position, and they recognised that, whatever might be their views on this or that particular matter, he, at any rate, was trying to do his best to meet the complicated elements of this difficult part of the Bill. He was unable to agree with the right hon. Gentleman in this matter. He differed from him for a reason which he did not think had yet received sufficient acknowledgment in the Committee. Those who had attacked the view now put forward by the Government had been told over and over again that they were suspicious of the local authorities. It was in the interest of the local authorities that he supported the Amendment to make the clause mandatory. All friends of local government must feel that they were showing their friendship for the local authorities best by keeping the question of religion out of their ken. When they brought the element of religion into a local contest they brought in an element which dominated all others. Therefore he would vote for the Amendment primarily for the sake of local government. Local government affairs had been increasing in complexity in recent years. Local authorities had now to deal with gas, water, electricity, trams, parks, and education, and already there was found some difficulty in getting proper men to take part in local work, and therein lay a great danger to municipal life.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that though the limits of discussion were wide, it was, after all, a question as to whether local education authorities "may" or "shall" give extended facilities in certain cases.

MR. HARWOOD said it was just the question of "may" or "may not" that would dislocate local affairs at elections; it would bring in the element of religion to dominate all other questions. The Minister for Education might say that he had brought the right of appeal into this clause, as he had done into an earlier clause. But there was a serious difference. In the first case, the matter was primarily one of administration; here it was a matter of principle, and it was for Parliament to settle matters of principle. The provision which the right hon. Gentleman offered in regard to contracting out filled him with amazement. Those who cared for national education must view with alarm the prospect of a number of schools going outside the national system. Why should they have a Bill at all, if they were to nullify it by allowing schools to go outside? Moreover, the treatment which was to be given to those schools seemed to him to be cruel. He was not pleading the cause of the Roman Catholic school or of any particular class of schools, but it seemed to him to be a monstrous thing to put a penalty on the teaching of religion. That was how it would appear to the public. It was as if Parliament were saying: "If you teach this kind of religion we will put a ban on you." Passive resistance! Why, in Bolton for thirty-two years the Roman Catholics, the poorest part of the population, kept up their own schools at their own expense and paid the School Board rate without a murmur. The members of the Government were being troubled by resistance of another kind from their own supporters, and he thought one of the causes of that was that they had condoned too much passive resistance. It was not for this House, which was the maker of laws, to treat lightly those who had disobeyed the law. It was not for this House to turn round on these poor people, who for thirty years had obeyed the law, although it was cruel to them, by paying rates for schools to which they could not possibly send their children, and say to them: "If you persist in teaching your religion we will put a ban on you, turn you into the wilderness, and put a mark upon you." That was surely not the way this House should treat the relationship of religion to the great problem of education. The clause unamended would be a most unfortunate thing for local government, and for municipal enterprise, and certainly he would oppose it.

*MR. CHARLES ROBERTS (Lincoln) said he spoke as a friend of Clause 4 in principle, though exception might be taken to its details. He thought the clause could be defended on grounds of principle, and a word of thanks was due to the Government for having met the representations made to them inside and outside the House by allowing an appeal to the Board of Education. They were not dealing here with single school districts. In such single school districts there were, he knew, some Roman Catholic schools; but these he understood the Roman Catholics did not propose to maintain on their present denominational basis. Under this clause they were dealing with urban districts where there was a choice of schools, and where it was possible without sacrificing educational efficiency to grant concession. In those urban districts under the clause it was to be an absolute condition that there should be public school accommodation for other children. The Clause 4 school would not be the old denominational school as it was known in the past. Under the old system the denominational school had a monopoly of a district in which there were children of mixed creeds. The new Clause 4 school would not have a monopoly. It would be an option or an alternative. The denominational school under Clause 4 was a single-religion school. It was a school which could not exist unless there was accommodation for children who belonged to other creeds. Although he admitted that the Clause 4 school might be under clerical influence, it was under popular management and control. He thought that that was a clear difference, and that, therefore, they might give extended facilities under the clause. Nevertheless the Government had gone far enough in granting the appeal to the Board of Education. They all knew that there might be local authorities who would not allow the rates to go to denominational schools; and they did not get rid of the difficulty if the clause was made mandatory. They were dealing with authorities, some of whom might be pig-headed, and might fight the clause in other ways that plainly occurred to him; and it would not get rid of the difficulty to substitute "shall" for "may." Then in the last resort the Board of Education had the power of mandamus. The hon. Member for Bolton had said that this was a matter which ought to be taken entirely out of the hands of the local education authorities; but that could not be done, because there were questions of accommodation, structure, sanitation, and what children were to be considered as children attending the schools—all these questions had in any case to be placed in the hands of the local education authorities. It would be far better, in his opinion, to trust in the first instance to the localities and to submit the adjustment of these facilities to justice and reason, rather than for the House of Commons to thrust this clause down the throats of the local authorities, whether they wanted it or not. After all, they were all anxious to get to a peaceful settlement of this unending religious wrangling, and many of those on his own side of the House would welcome concession, which would, without sacrificing fundamental principles, make for peaceful settlement. He did not know whether he had read the Amendment rightly, but in his view the contracting-out arrangement would rarely occur, and it would be a remedy adopted in the last resort. It would only apply to a fraction of a fraction of the schools. He did not believe that any great breach in our national system of education would be made in leaving these occasional and exceptional powers over this mere residuum of schools in the hands of the President of the Board of Education. He did not see much harm in a few experiments being made in that direction, but he regarded contracting-out as a temporary expedient—it was only going to last five years—during which period religious party passions would have time to cool down.

Mr. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall) said he was quite sure that the Minister for Education could not but have been moved by the appeal made by the noble Lord the Member for Chichester and by speaker after speaker, in behalf of the poor Catholics in this country. He himself was an Evangelical Churchman, but he hoped he had toleration to those who differed from him, and who wished to do justice to their own feelings and to their own schools. If they said it was necessary to have more extended facilities than were given to them in Clause 3, he thought they ought to be given. The noble Lord the Member for Chichester had said that half of the Catholic schools would be destroyed under the Bill. Surely that was a serious matter. He thought that if a Church wished that religious instruction should be imparted for more than two days in the week it should be given. He himself was a manager of a Church school, and he believed that the general practice in the Church of England schools at the present time was that special religious teaching was only given for one half hour in the week. He had gone into schools to find out what was being taught, and had heard the children being taught to do their duty towards God and to their neighbour according to the Church Catechism—teaching which, formerly, no Nonconformist would have been unwilling to listen to. He knew that there were Catholics and some Anglicans and Jews who were willing to go further than he would, and there was no doubt that in some centres the existing religious teaching would not be sufficient. At the present moment he did not think we had strife in our local authorities. On the contrary he knew from his own experience they had peace reigning within them. Why should they disturb that peace by bringing in these sectarian and religious differences at every municipal election? If the proposal of the Government were adopted it would introduce into local elections that strife which they all wished to avoid. He was sure the right hon. Gentleman and his colleagues wished to be fair and to do justice in the case of all schools. They should therefore endeavour to do justice to the Roman Catholic schools. Such an appeal came, he thought, with much more force from a Member who, like himself, was opposed to every doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church, and to the extreme doctrines of the Church of England, than it would do from those interested.

*Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said the Bill did not apply to Ireland and did not affect his constituency, but he could not help expressing an opinion upon the question, because he thought that an exaggerated view had been taken on both sides. Taking Clause 4, and dealing for a moment with it from the Nonconformist attitude, the President of the Board of Education had declared that he meant to make the extended facilities for special religious instruction a reality. Accepting, therefore, the idea that it was going to be made operative on a large scale, if that were so, what was the overwhelming reason against it being made mandatory? He took the Nonconformist position because they were going to vote for the clause upon an assurance that it was going to be made a reality. But if the Government meant this clause to be a reality, and if they knew that it was going to be a reality, whatever they did in that Committee, surely the issue at stake from that standpoint was a very small one indeed. That was what made him say that he thought exaggerated views had been taken of this clause. He was going to vote for the Amendment, although he did not distrust the local authorities of this country. He had had a great deal to do with them. For five years he was at the Local Government Board and therefore knew something about the subject, but anybody who was acquainted with England knew that there were not only local authorities who were pig-headed and who gave a great deal of trouble to the central authority, but a great many local authorities were not only pig-headed but bigoted. There was nothing a Department would shrink from more than mandamusing a great local authority, or in fact any local authority. He remembered the Local Government Board mandamusing the Leicester Board of Guardians about vaccination. He remembered how much they shrank from it, and how they were driven from point to point, how they were glad to give it the go by, and how in the end the whole proceedings ended in smoke. The mandamusing of a local authority could not be done with impunity, and if it came to that on a large scale the working of the Act would be wrecked. The Government drew this clause with the avowed intention of meeting the susceptibilities of the Roman Catholic and the Jew, and they had to include the Anglican. If the Government meant, as they had said, that the clause should be a reality, that it should not be illusory, what reason could there be against making it mandatory? To throw this question into municipal elections all over England would be one of the worst things the House of Commons could do.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.) said they had now reached the crucial point of the Bill, and the matter was of such importance to those whom he represented that he felt he must trespass upon the time of the Committee. While recognising the honesty of the intention of the Minister for Education, he expressed the fear that, in endeavouring to reconcile the various conflicting interests concerned in this question. the right hon. Gentleman was attempting to do the impossible by the means he proposed. The only way of dealing with the problem was by adopting a policy of equality all round, of letting each sect teach its children in its own way. It was of no use to say that the State could not afford to give religious teaching, because in his view it was the first duty of the State to see that the children of the community were brought up with proper religious teaching and that no portion of the children of its citizens were neglected or damnified in any way by the system of education it undertook. Some hon. Members had spoken for local authorities and were entitled to do so because they were members of local authorities themselves. On the whole, however, he did not think that the local authority point of view had been properly dealt with. He did not think there was any distinction between English and Irish local authorities; the Irish local authority was very much in the same position as the English local authority. Many of his hon. friends and himself had been involved in local affairs, and he himself had taken part in every form of local authority which existed in Ireland. He thought that in the interests of the local authorities themselves this clause ought to be made mandatory. If the local authorities throughout the country were canvassed, and asked, not from a platform, but in their committees, what they felt, he believed they would agree that the last thing they desired to see was local elections influenced by religious discussions. After all, Parliament ought to have the courage of its convictions, and if it meant this clause to be a reality it ought to say so. It ought to say that the provision of this clause should be carried into effect, in order to save the local authorities the trouble of fighting election after election upon religious or sectarian lines. He was very much struck by the objection which some hon. Members seemed to take to the proposal that the local authority should pay the rent of the schools which they were to take over. In his country that rent would be paid in respect of property which had been created by the labour and self-sacrifice of the poorest part of the population. He was referring to the schools created by the labours and sacrifices of the Catholic population. If in Great Britain the Government said that they intended to acquire the property of these Roman Catholics they were bound in common honesty to pay for it. He looked on the proposal for contracting-out as a dangerous one for Catholic schools. The salaries of teachers had been raised, the condition of the schools had been improved, and the expenses of education were not likely to diminish in the future. Schools which contracted-out might accordingly find it difficult to satisfy the authorities, and might run the risk of being closed on the ground that they were not properly carried on. Catholics were not responsible for the educational disturbance of the last few years, and he hoped they would not be made to suffer in consequence of it.

*MR. HART-DAVIES (Hackney, N.) thought the whole of the debate was one more illustration of the difficulties which were created when the Government got away from the clear path of principle. It was a matter of hopeless difficulty to combine denominational teaching with public control. Contracting-out was, he thought, a step in the right direction, although he did not think it proceeded upon proper lines inasmuch as it was made a question of an order of the Board of Education instead of a question of the wishes of the trustees or managers of schools. Although he did not often find himself in agreement with the right hon. Member for West Birmingham, he agreed with every word the right hon. Gentleman had said on this subject. He was sure it was the only logical and satisfactory solution. It was impossible to carry on an efficient system of education if a large section of the community had a rankling sense of grievance, as he believed under this section they would have.

*MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD said whether they voted for Clause 4 or against it, in favour of "may" or of "shall," or for or against various Amendments that had been put upon the Paper by the Government, they would find themselves in a difficulty. Those for whom he spoke did not accept this Bill as being a satisfactory solution of the religious difficulty. They supported strenuously the proposal of the hon. Member for Burnley, which they considered at the time laid down a basis upon which a satisfactory educational superstructure could be erected. They were enormously out-voted. They saw the difficulties which followed from the magnificent beating they got on that occasion. He was painfully aware that to talk of logic and of rational conclusion in connection with this topic would meet with the severe disapprobation of some of his hon. friends opposite. Nevertheless, the fact remained that every Member of this House who voted against them on that particular occasion voted in favour of Clause 4. He had been exceedingly amused by some of the speeches which Nonconformists spokesmen had delivered to-day. If the country were entirely Nonconformist he could understand those speeches. There would in that case be common sense and practical wisdom in an hon. Member assuring the House that nobody could object to the Bill as it stood. Clause 4 was a reasonable and necessary corollary of the principle on which this Bill was founded. There were only two possible ways of dealing with the religious question in connection with elementary education. One was to say that as the State was a secular organisation—which, of course, was the Protestant view of the State—it could only concern itself with the secular aspect of education. That was the view taken by him and his friends, but it was a view that had been rejected by an overwhelming majority. The only other way of dealing with the question, therefore, was to apply the principle of toleration. The principle of toleration was not to lay down what was called the greatest common ground occupied by all sects; that was merely tipping the scale in favour of the sect which laid the least emphasis upon denominational instruction. He was sorry that any sect should lay great emphasis upon denominational instruction, but he was not there to take any part but that of a judge, so far as one possibly could, and to weigh as impartially as possible both sides of the question. The principle of toleration meant the recognition of the existence of separate denominations which did not and could not agree as to what were the essential principles of Christianity. If every sect said simple Bible teaching was the foundation upon which they built their particular sectarian edifice then it would be altogether unreasonable and illogical for the representatives of those sects to say that Clause 4 was a necessary corollary of the debates and divisions upon Clause 1. But that was not a correct description of the religious state of the country, and therefore the application of the principles of toleration to religion could not possibly be satisfied by the Bill. Having voted as so many hon. Members did the other day, they were bound to say that so far as they reasonably could they had to recognise the right of denominations to retain their schools, and appoint, at any rate, the headmasters of those schools in order to retain their religious atmosphere. The Committee were bound to see that in giving effect to the principle of toleration they did not reduce the efficiency of the education given in the denominational schools. He thought the Committee would be perfectly unanimous that they could not give effect to the principle in any way which would reduce the efficiency of education. Therefore the Committee were bound to reject the Amendment allowing certain schools to contract themselves out of the operation of the Bill. They could not give effect to this principle of toleration by allowing premises to be used as a schoolhouse if unfitted for that purpose, and they had already safeguarded themselves against that; and the Board of Education had powers quite apart from the Bill under which they could reject such premises. So far as the Bill was drafted it gave them all the safeguards from an educational point of view that were necessary, and then it imposed the simple mechanical test that if four-fifths of the children attending a particular schools asked, by means of a secret ballot, that that school should be denominational, the local authority might accede to their request. The question was, Ought this to be left in the hands of the local authority? He was not going to reason from the special point of view of any denomination. He wanted to consider the matter from a political point of view, because that was the view he and his friends were more interested in than the religious aspect of the question. They might just as well draft a Factory Bill and provide that the local authorities should do certain things and then stipulate that those provisions of the Factory law which were placed under the control of the local authorities should come into operation only if the local authoriries so decided. Any such stipulation would immediately bring the law into absolute chaos, and the House would at once object to any local authorities having such a power. What they were laying down in Clause 4 was that denominational schools followed as a necessary consequence on the basis of the Bill as drafted. They were laying down as part of civil rights that under certain circumstances a certain proportion of parents should be able to claim certain privileges for their children. It was not a question of expediency, it was a question of denominations that differed from the great majority of the people of the country. If that was not the position, Clause 4 ought never to have been included.

But, if the meaning he put on the general idea and the consequence of that idea was embodied in the Bill, then he said this was not a question of local self-government, it was a question of a declaration on the part of the legislative authority of the country that such and such should be the civil right of the parents, and under certain conditions that civil right should be mechanically recognised on the part of the administrative authorities created by the Bill. He could not conceive for a moment of any theory of local self-government which demanded that this question should be handed over for final settlement to the local authority. It was not a question of local administration. Why should the education authority in his own constituency declare that no special facilities should be given, and the education authority of an adjoining constituency say that they should be given? Surely the clause did not lay down a clear principle of law in such a way as to gain for it the confidence of the denominations which they were asking to remain passive and administer the Bill in a fair-minded way. He and his friends also looked at the matter from another point of view. They had hon. Members on town councils or county councils, and there was one thing they were keenly alive to, namely, the introduction of sectarian strife into the contests for efficient local administration. He could assure hon. Members that that was going to continue if the clause was left in its optional form. Those hon. Members who had gone through local elections would agree with the view he had expressed. [" No."] Surely Members must have a vivid recollection of school board elections, and the municipal elections that followed the Bill of 1902. Hon. Members must surely pause before they said they were prepared to face municipal elections after this Bill became law, when the first thing a local authority was to be asked to do was to decide whether Clause 4 should be put into operation or not. Were they prepared to face such elections when this question would be put in the forefront of the considerations that would influence the voting at such elections? Did they seriously imagine that the principles of sound municipal administration were going to be the main considerations in these elections? There was another point. Even if they left the clause optional and inserted provisions enabling the Board of Education to intervene if it found it desirable or necessary so to do, they were opening the doors for serious conflict between the Board of Education and some local authorities. Opinions would differ as to how great was that risk, but surely they had Wales as an example to warn them in that direction, and he agreed with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for St. George's, Hanover Square, as to the great temptation that would be placed in the way of local authorities to take the line of least resistance, a most objectionable course from the point of view of sound and efficient education. He did not look forward with any degree of pleasure or hope or expectation to the methods by which local education authorities would have to decide whether or not this or that school should be taken over, or whether special facilities should be given, and following that, an appeal to the Board of Education and an inquiry and possibly a decision against the local authority. He thought it very likely that local authorities, knowing that reference could be made to the Board of Education, would be inclined, as a matter of convenience and policy, to refuse to give these special facilities. It was in fact an invitation to the local authorities to refuse these facilities in the first instance and refer the whole question to the Board of Education. One could easily imagine that expedient being made an election cry in certain places. Candidates would pledge themselves to refer the matter to the Board for final decision, and he thought such candidates would be credited with being cute electioneerers. That was not a desirable position to occupy, and therefore he was going to vote for the clause being made mandatory. If that was defeated he would undoubtedly support the Government Amendments with the exception of that which gave the schools power to contract out of the Bill. He regretted that the very simple and straightforward word "shall" was not introduced into the first clause, for that would have given the Catholics and the Church some guarantee that toleration was going to be exercised, which was not the case so far as this Bill was concerned.

MR. LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS (Carmarthen District) assured the Government that they would have the undivided support of the vast majority of their supporters if they were prepared to stick to their Bill and to their Amendments. It was not a question whether their followers were willing to support the Government; it was a question whether the Government were willing to support their own Bill. In the last few days the Members who had been most vocal on the Liberal side were those who opposed the Government, but he asked the Government not merely to regard the views of those Members, but also to regard the views of those who silently followed the Government into the Division Lobby. He was one of those who supported the secular Amendment and he regretted ever since that more Members had not had the courage of their opinions to support that solution. It was the logical and inevitable solution, but the Government had not accepted it. The Bill had been built on the principle of local option. Clause 4 as it stood gave the local authority the option to give extended facilities, and he urged the Government, as they had after mature thought introduced a Bill based on the principle of local option, not to allow themselves to be bullied out of that position or to be blandished out of it by speeches made on either side of the House. The hon. Member for the Chichester Division had said that 50 per cent. of the Catholic schools would be destroyed by Clause 4. Nothing surprised him more than to hear that reiterated.

MR. DILLON: Clause 4 leaves 50 per cent. of the Catholic schools outside its operation.

MR. LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS: Does the hon. Member mean to say that if 50 per cent. do not come within the operation of Clause 4 they will not come within the operation of Clause 3?

MR. DILLON: Clause 3 is no use to us at all.

MR. LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS said that was another matter. If a school could not be brought within the conditions of Clause 4 he contended there was nothing to prevent its being brought within Clause 3. That was not the extinction of denominational teaching in this country. As to contracting out, if he thought it would be used by the Board of Education indiscriminately or that its powers would be evoked to a large extent, he would view it with great apprehension. But he did not conceive that anything of that kind would happen. He assured the Irish Members that the Welsh Members, who represented the greatest body of Nonconformists in this country, only asked that local option should be allowed them because they had not got a Parliament of their own to decide what they wanted.

MR. DILLON: We are going to support your part of the Bill.

MR. LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS said he was glad to hear that, but that dealt with only a small part of the Home Rule question. If this clause was made mandatory a greater flame would be kindled in Wales than the present Government would be able to put out. But if local option was allowed, if they trusted the local authorities in Wales, the Bill would work smoothly and well. Someone had said: suppose there was a pig-headed authority. No one knew better than he did that things were done during the last three or four years, both in Wales and outside it, which in their sober and calmer moments none of them would like to justify. There was a state of war, and the Welsh Coercion Act as it was called was passed against the protest of Welsh Members and he was sorry that the Irish Members voted for it.

MR. DILLON: I never did.

MR. LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS: Some of the Irish Party did. The Coercion Act was passed to coerce these people into doing what they did not want to do. This Bill could not be passed without the consent of the vast majority of the Liberal Members. It had met with the approval of the President of the Board of Trade, who was the greatest nationalist leader they had yet produced, and a Bill that was supported by him was not to be flouted by the Welsh authorities. The Bill would go to the constituencies in a different way from that of 1902 and it would go with greater sanction behind it. He asked hon. Members who were interested in Clause 4 and the provision it made for the voluntary schools within the four-fifths area, to trust the people to do the right thing, and not to try to coerce them. That was the real argument in favour of leaving the clause as it stood. He agreed that contracting out was nominally, at all events, a breach of Clause 1 of the Bill. Let him remind hon. Members of what happened in Scotland. The Scottish system, if he was rightly informed, was precisely the sort of system which was proposed by the Government in this Bill. Local option was given. [AN HON. MEMBER: No.] Let him explain what he meant. He understood that the local authorities could appoint if they liked Catholic teachers, and he was told that where there was a vast predominance of Catholic children such teachers were so appointed. There was not one uniform system of schools in Scotland, for he believed that one-tenth of them were outside the national system. He did not believe that contracting-out would be operative in more than a few cases; indeed, not at all in Wales. But he believed in the policy of justice, of trusting the people, and of leaving to each locality to decide what was best for its own community.

MR. WYNDHAM (Dover) said that some remarks which fell from the last speaker were of great interest, because they showed that he, in common with other Members of the Committee, believed that this Bill did not leave anything in effect to the determination of the local authority; that the Government, in fact, did not trust the local authority. Without going over the ground already covered, let them see how Clause 4 stood. They began by giving directions to the local authorties, and said: "You are not to allow denominational schools to go on unless certain conditions are fulfilled." These conditions were:—the school had to be suitable; the area had to be an urban area; the parents in favour of the extended facilities must be in the proportion of 4 to 1 of the other parents having children at the school; there must be an alternative school in the area; the population of the area was to be 5,000; there was to be no rent; the salary of the teacher was to be paid by the denomination. So that, so far from leaving this matter to the good sense and discretion of the local authorities, the Government started by saying that the local authorities were not to recognise any one of those schools unless these seven conditions were fulfilled. He was not saying that these conditions were too numerous or too stringent. That was not the point; but if they were to have so many conditions then the whole trend of the argument was in favour of saying that if the whole of the conditions were fulfilled the denominational schools should go on. Not only, however, had all these conditions to be fulfilled before the local authorities had a word to say, but after the conditions were fulfilled three appeals were granted against their conditions in certain circumstances. One sprang from Clause 2: if the local authorities wished to give the go-by to the whole situation, then there was to be an appeal. The second was if the managers or owners offered to enter into a treaty with the local authorities to take over a school, and the latter did not wish to do so, the tribunal of appeal might say either one of two things—first, that if the conditions were fulfilled, the local authority must take over the schools, or, secondly, they might say that under certain circumstances the denominational schools were to be State-aided schools. What then were the local authorities to do if they had conscientious objections, because they might have taken a reactionary step previous to 1902, or even worse? Then as to the third appeal. Supposing the local authorities ostensibly afforded the extended facilities, but did not in practice give satisfaction in the matter, the Board of Education might spring the teachers' question. The local authorities might say: "The teachers here do not hold the religious views of the owners of the schools," and the Board of Education might then say: "This is a bad business, and we will take away the rates from that school, and only give the Parliamentary grant." But there was another set of facts. The local authorities were elected every three years; and did anybody suppose that the election would not turn in many places to a considerable extent on points arising out of the religious difficulty?

Not content with that, the Government brought in another alternative by saying that these arrangements were to be reviewed every five years so as to obtain, by ballot, the sanction of the parents of four-fifths of the children attending the schools. Thus the Government had added another election to the many existing elections, and in fifteen years they might have five ordinary local authority elections, and three by ballot, in which the religious difficulty would be prominent. All these difficulties had arisen because the Government would not have the courage to say that where the conditions, however numerous or stringent, were fulfilled, religious freedom should be accorded to those who desired that the denominational schools should be continued in practice. It had often been said that the religious difficulty was more theoretical than practical. That might be, but in practice the difficulty would remain, because it would be complicated by these new definitions, by these appeals, by these elections, and would become so acute in the districts in which it existed at present, that it would extend to other parts, and so spread bitterness all round.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.) said he did not think the right hon. Gentleman had added much to the enlightenment of the debate, and he confessed he did not follow the right hon. Gentleman's logic. His hon. friend the Member for Leicester, who ought to have contributed to the debate something worth listening to, was, however, influenced by his predilection for secular education. For his part he denied that the State had any right to pay for the religious education which any citizen might demand. The right hon. Member for Dover deprecated very much the sectarian strife which was likely to be engendered if the Clause now before the Committee was accepted. He (Mr. White) confessed he had no such great fear of evil resulting from the religious question being dealt with by the local authorities. Indeed he thought it might be a means of stimulating the interest of the people in education generally. It had been said that the School Board elections had been influenced by the religious question, but he knew that there were many other interests concerned which influenced those elections. He was quite certain that since 1902 education had fallen much more into the background than was the case when the school boards existed, and their elections were fought. He wished to press the point that the Bill itself was a compromise. It was not a Bill which many of them would have drawn. It was not a Bill which, in its essence, represented the views of Nonconformists, although it had been asserted that such was the case. If it had been a Bill for the establishment of a really national system of education, and if the Bill had abolished all denominational schools, there might have been something to be said for it. But it was a compromise on the part of the Government to do something for education. It had been with some little reluctance that many of them had found the Minister for Education making one concession after another, in the best possible spirit, but a spirit he was bound to say which had not been reciprocated by hon. Gentlemen opposite. He confessed he did not understand why hon. Gentlemen opposite were so unwilling to put themselves into the hands of the local authorities, being sure that where the conditions existed which demanded a Roman Catholic school such a school would be granted. The Bill was in principle a local option measure, and he was strongly opposed to making the clause mandatory. It seemed to him contrary to the spirit of the Constitution that religion should be made in any sense mandatory. As a last resort in very peculiar circumstances he was prepared to support the contracting-out clause, and he thought the other provisions in the Government Amendments would commend themselves to the majority of the Committee. They were an honest and reasonable attempt to meet conflicting interests, and enabled him and those who thought with him to accept the clause in a way they could not otherwise have done. As to rent, he would remind hon. Gentlemen opposite that they were acquiring really better terms than under the 1902 Act. The ballot was a satisfactory way of ascertaining the opinion of the parents. They knew under what circumstances numbers of petitions were sent up to the House, how they were prepared under great misrepresentation and misunderstanding. The ballot would be a safeguard to both parents and local authorities against such evils as he had alluded to. The fact that the Bill did not suit either Party might be taken as a proof that the Government had hit on a happy medium.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) said that n discussing the Amendment he could not without violating the rules of order allude to some of the points in regard to the whole clause with which they on the Irish Benches were most shocked. He could not accept what had been said about the 5,000 limit. If that limit were retained he was informed that 50 per cent. of the Catholic schools in England would be excluded from this clause. [" No."] He was in a better position than the hon. Gentlemen who said "No" to know that that would be the result; and if it were really true that by the limitations of this clause 50 per cent. of the Catholic schools would be excluded, he could not believe that the right hon. Gentleman would be a party to such an act of injustice. Therefore it would be no consolation to them to know that the third clause might be made applicable to these schools. He repeated that about 50 per cent., or nearly 500 schools out 1,043 would be excluded under Clause 4, if this limitation was persisted in. He did not say that anybody contemplated an act of injustice, and he was not prepared to dissent from the proposal that the local authorities would be fair and just generally. Accepting the view, however, that local authorities were generally tolerant, he desired protection against the intolerant things which it had been admitted by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Carnarvon might be done in a state of war, but which would not be done in cool blood. He accepted the analogy, but when they came to deal with questions of religion, one was never certain when one was in a state of war, especially if the question was mixed up with practical considerations. They knew, for instance, that in one great district of England teachers were penalised by a reduction of 10 per cent. in their salaries because they did not give religious instruction; that, he considered, to be an intolerable grievance and constituted a grave danger to the Catholic schools which afforded secular education. Distinctions were made if the parents of children preferred that they should go to a Catholic instead of to a Protestant school. There had been cases in Wales, such for instance as that at Barry, in which fuel had been refused for the purposes of denominational schools to which the majority of the members of the local authority were opposed. While accepting the statement that these things were done in a state of war, surely they ought to protect themselves against this state of things. In regard to local option a very small local option was left in this Bill. Had hon. Members read the Law Reports in *The Times*? Did they not know that at this very time the Minister for Education was applying for a mandamus to compel a Yorkshire local authority to do that which in his opinion ought to be done? Whatever was the cause at issue between the West Riding and the Minister for Education — his right hon. friend was on one side and the local authority was on the other. That being so, his right hon. friend had to go to the court to get a mandamus. In view of that it was rather too much to ask them to accept the theory that local bodies under all circumstances and at all times might be trusted to do what was right. It was said that the local authorities ought to be left with discretion, but his answer was that there were certain fundamental liberties which ought not to be at the mercy of any imperial or local authority, and one of these was religious equality. If it were the opinion of this Committee that the Catholics, the Jews, and the Anglicans who fulfilled the conditions of the Bill should be allowed this religious equality, then they ought to make that the subject of statute law, and not leave it to the caprice or the goodwill of the local authority. The question of the rent was one of those small petty niggling acts which very often created a great deal more resentment than more important things. Religious equality meant exactly the same position for the schools of the Catholics as for the schools of the Nonconformists, and if they devote-voted rates and taxes to the teaching of what they might call undenominational Christianity, but what Catholics called Protestantism, he could not understand the consistency and logic of denying the rent to a Catholic school because Catholic instead of Protestant doctrine was taught in it. These Catholic schools appealed to him and to every educationist as the schools of the poorest, and if any inequality was to exist it should not be in favour of the schools of the better-to-do classes. It was all very well for the representatives of some of the great Nonconformist bodies to speak of the withholding of this rent as no grievance when the members of those bodies need not send their children to these elementary schools unless they liked. They could send them to a grammar school or a private school; but the parents of the children who went to the Catholic schools were too poor to do that. It was almost the worst act of the great Irish tragedy that the people of the Irish race who had come to England or Scotland had to take the unhealthiest work and the work which involved the greatest drudgery and was the worst paid. These were the people whom it was proposed to penalise by withholding the rent, and, what was more, to contract them out of the Act. He regarded contracting-out, and still more to be contracted-out, as a reactionary step. There had never been an instance in this country of a Catholic school once established having been surrendered. He might well appeal not to the generosity, but to the justice of tolerant, fair-minded men. The proposal was that if a local authority could not be persuaded or bullied into taking these schools they should be contracted out. That meant ill-paid teachers and ill-ventilated schools. There was no class which could bear these disadvantages less than the people for whom he spoke. He hoped that the majority in this House would rise above Party, and see that the rights of these people were respected.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said there was one peculiarity which must have struck the Minister for Education. The right hon. Gentleman, like the mover of the Amendment, desired that this clause might be a reality, and he had put down Amendments of his own to achieve that object. He desired, like the mover of the Amend ment, that no voluntary school which fulfilled the general conditions of the clause should by the action of a local authority be excluded from the advantages which he wanted to give it. But whom had he found to defend his proposition? The only gentleman in the House who had risen to defend the Government and to speak against the Amendment was the hon. Member for the Morley Division of Yorkhire who had spoken in favour of local option, and local option was no longer the Government policy in regard to this clause. Therefore, the only gentlemen who had spoken against the Amendment differed fundamentally from the policy which the Government desired to carry out by the Amendments they had put upon the Paper. He thought it was one of the most singular incidents of a Parliamentary debate he had ever known that the only defenders of the Government were those who differed from the Government's policy. They had not to-day to concern themselves with the gentlemen who were in favour of local option, but to compare the two alternative methods which were now before the Committee. There was, firstly, the proposition of his hon. friend, the perfectly simple, direct, and intelligible proposition that a local authority which, according to the Government, ought to give these facilities was to be obliged by the Act to give them. That was a plain, straightforward, honest, direct, and intelligible way. It did not commend itself to the Government; and what they had got to do was to compare this plain and simple method with the tortuous, ambiguous, and, he thought, wholly unjustifiable plan which the Government had put before them in the Amendments the right hon. Gentleman had explained, but, if he would allow him to say so, not defended in the speech which he had addressed to the Committee. The first criticism he had to make was that the Government proposal aimed at taking the responsibility off the local authority, which they agreed was not in all cases to be trusted, and handing it over to the Education Department. But was the Education Department to be wholly trusted in these matters? Some hon. Gentlemen had talked of the Education Department as if it were, necessarily, a judicial body, absolutely to be trusted to decide, without respect to Party prejudice, religious opinion, or political opinion, questions which by hypothesis were tearing asunder public opinion in some constituencies. Was the Board of Education, even in the opinion of the head of the Department himself, a judicial body of that kind? And if it were a judicial body under the right hon. Gentleman himself, had the Committee the smallest security that it was going to remain a judicial body under the right hon. Gentleman's successors, from whatever party they might be drawn? The drafting of the clause made it obligatory that there should be a revision of these arrangements every five years. Every five years some Minister for Education—and he could not think the right hon. Gentleman desired to be Minister for Education for more than five years—had got to revise all these arrangements. Was there the smallest probability, or any reasonable hope, in the absence of statutory directions or any clear indication of what the policy of Parliament was, that the right hon. Gentleman or his successors would look at these difficult problems in the pure, dry light of justice? The right hon. Gentleman himself, in one of his speeches, indicated this exact weakness, and deprecated responsibilities being thrown either on himself, or upon his successors, or upon the Department, which, in a number of cases, must bring him and them into collision with bitter divisions of religious opinion, and, it might be, even with bitter differences of political opinion. That was the first objection to the Government's proposal to which the plan of his hon. friend was not open. The second objection was that the Government plan was clumsy beyond expression. They set up in Clause 4, as originally drafted, the most elaborate machinery, and all that was, or might be, doubled in any particular case by the Amendment of the Government, because the Government, or the Education Department, had got to revise the decisions come to by all this elaborate machinery, and, for the life of him, he could not see how a decision arrived at by that machinery could be upset unless they first put in operation machinery not less elaborate and not less complicated. All that had to be done in order to carry out an object which his hon. friend would accomplish by the change of a single word in the clause. It was a curious thing that the Government were not content with substituting an unsafe tribunal for a safe direction of the House of Commons and establishing clumsy machinery, but must needs accompany it with this amazing clause about rent. He did not think the provision had been defended by any one except the Member for North Camberwell, who, in the course of a speech, with much of which he agreed, made an apology for this kind of rent. He did not himself think any apology was possible. This was the second instance of what appeared to have become an habitual proceeding with the Government. The Government were driven by argument to concede something to the voluntary schools. They made a concession on Clause 2, and they were now making what they regarded as a concession on Clause 4. In each case they appeared to have thought that they would conciliate their Nonconformist supporters by putting a pecuniary fine upon those whose religious convictions they were endeavouring to satisfy. In the first case they said they would carry out their deliberate pledges, but as the price of their fidelity to their own promises would require that every owner of a private school as well as of a trust deed school should hand over that school to the local authority if required. Now the Committee had the second case. What relation could the most ingenious dialectician in the House suggest between an arrangement by which they were to meet the consciences of the owners and parents connected with a particular voluntary school and the rent paid for that school? What connexion could there be between making a local authority carry out what the Government said was its duty and handing over to it as a bonus for carrying out that duty the rent of some voluntary school? There was an extraordinary want of logic in these proposals which amazed him. If the Government had said from the beginning that they did not think any voluntary school ought to exact rent, he would have thought their position grossly unjust. But they would have said, "We have a majority and we mean to take the school." But to bring this forward as if it had some connection with satisfying the conscience of schools intended to be benefited by Clause 4 was a thing which no man could justify, and which the Minister of Education had thrown upon the Committee without a word of explanation or justification. He considered it not only extremely petty and unreasonable, but he ventured to think it would have consequences of a very serious character. The object of the Government, it was said, was to induce the local bodies to carry out their admitted functions

Why did the Government put into their Amendment every inducement to the local authority to ignore the obligations which they said ought to be obeyed? If his hon. friend's Amendment were carried the local authorities would have no alternative between dealing fairly by Clause 4 or breaking the law directly. But the Government had literally bribed the local authority by their Amendments not to carry out the policy which they said the local authority were bound to carry out. First there was the rent. If the local authorities did not come to an arrangement with the voluntary schools they would be relieved of paying the rent and of repairing the schools. They would therefore have a direct pecuniary motive for quarrelling with the managers of voluntary schools and either refusing to make an arrangement with them or refusing to make an arrangement which they could work tolerably, so that the voluntary schools would beg the Education Department that they might be relieved of this unnatural alliance and allowed, even at the cost of inefficiency and poverty, to be placed in a position of something like liberty. But the bribe to the local authority was not merely a money bribe. Everybody knew that the Government had got themselves into a great mess over Clause 4, because that clause, whether in its new or in its old form, required that the man who had been a passive resister since 1902 should go on resisting passively to the end of time. In every area in which a voluntary school was kept going at the expense of the rates every conscientious passive resister was bound to continue to uphold his principles. There was no loophole from that embarrassing situation under Clause 4 as it originally stood. But a loophole would be provided if every voluntary school within an area in which there was a passive resister was driven by the local authority to become a State-aided school. Then and then only would the conscientious passive resister be at peace; then and then only would he be justified in obeying the laws of his country. He would no longer allow his goods to be restrained, even if he had no kind friend to relieve him from that obligation. Everybody would admit that that was a strong temptation to the local authority to drive or exclude every voluntary school out of the educational system of the country. As it rested with the local authority alone to decide whether or not a voluntary school should be paid out of the rates or entirely out of the taxes, who could doubt that in places where there was a passive resister—places, for instance, like the West Riding of Yorkshire and Wales—the local authority would without hesitation choose the course which relieved them of this difficulty of their own conscience and that of their friends at the price of the efficiency of the school? He confessed he wholly agreed with the hon. Member for North Camberwell that the contracting-out clause was a retrograde clause. Never had he heard such warm eulogies of the Act of 1902, even from the supporters of the Act, as he had heard that night from the Ministerial Benches; and never had he so fully realised the truth of the opinion he had always been bold enough to entertain that that Act was a great and permanent educational measure as when he heard it admitted with such frankness that night. The hon. Member for North Camberwell had always been consistent in that view, but the significant thing was that no one on the Ministerial Benches had ventured to contradict the hon. Gentleman. No one could deny that to allow any school now supported out of the rates and taxes to be henceforth aided out of taxes alone was a retrograde step, from the point of view of secular education, and thoroughly and completely reactionary. It not only put the schools back into the position they occupied before 1902, but it emphasized that evil by bringing them down from the high position to which the Act of 1902 had raised them. The Government solution of the great religious difficulty was to turn well-equipped schools into ill-equipped schools by compelling them to give up the advantages of the rates which were conferred upon them by the Act of 1902. Surely that was one of the most grotesque results of the fortnight's debates on the Bill. It was in the fullest sense in direct contradiction to the most emphatic promises and pledges given by the right hon. Gentleman himself. They all had fresh in their minds the speech made on the introduction of the Bill which had raised so many hopes that had been already dashed to the ground. ["No."] It raised among other hopes the hope, indeed the certainty, that wherever the owners of denominational schools desired the system of denominational teaching to be continued it would be continued subject to the restrictions in Clause 3. The Government promised that on the First Reading, but they now attempted to give a different interpretation to their unmistakable pledge. Might he remind the right hon. Gentleman of what he said? The right hon. Gentleman said—

> "That after the appointed day no elementary school should receive a penny of public money, either from the rates or taxes, unless it becomes a provided school within the meaning of the Education Act. Unless electoral pledges were fustian and fudge, unless they were mere sound and fury signifying nothing, no one man could ignore that."

Was there a man in the House who could interpret the right hon. Gentleman's explicit statement in any other sense than this, that henceforth every public elementary school was to be, in the first place, under public management, and, in the second place, to receive aid out of rates as well as out of taxes? Could there be a clearer renunciation of the idea that there were to be what were now called Stated-aided schools — schools entirely outside the general system of the county schools which were to subsist or starve, as the case might be, upon taxes, and taxes alone, which were to have no connection with the local authority either by way of control or assistance, which were not to receive a single penny out of the rates. That was for ever to be abolished. ["Hear, hear," from the Chancellor of the Exchequer.] Did he understand the cheer of the Chancellor of the Exchequer as indicating that the Government viewed that policy with satisfaction? The right hon. Gentleman adopted a prudent reticence. At all events, the reported and corrected words of the Members of the Government indicated that they never contemplated, when they brought in the Bill, any such class of school as State-aided schools, but that they deliberately thought they were introducing a reform which went further than the Act of 1902, not, indeed, in giving more rate aid, but in giving public control over the schools. One word by way of summing up. The Government found among those who were going to support the Amendment only those who were in favour of local option. Those who were in favour of local option were, indeed, opposed to the Amendment, but they were equally opposed to the policy of the Government. They were quite opposed to the policy of the Government. They relied, therefore, upon the somewhat hollow support of those who fundamentally differed from them in the object to be attained. In the object to be attained there was no difference between the Government and his hon. friend. His hon. friend proposed a clear and straightforward method of dealing with it. The Government method was not clear, and not straightforward—it involved the greatest injustice to voluntary schools, it carried with it the most reactionary result upon general education, and it was in direct and explicit contradiction to the promises made by the Minister for Education himself.

Mr. BIRRELL moved to report Progress.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR inquired if the Government were going to do anything else.

MR. BIRRELL replied that they intended to take nothing except the Worcester Election Petition Motion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said it would in that case be unnecessary to divide.

Motion made, and Question, "That the Chairman do report Progress; and ask leave to sit again"—(*Mr. Birrell*)—put, and agreed to.

Committee report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY BILL
(BY ORDER).

Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question [June 19th], "That the Bill, as amended, be now considered."

Question again proposed.

*MR. MORTON (Sutherland) rose to move, "That the Bill be considered that day three months." He maintained that the railway ought to provide third-class as well as first-class sleeping carriages upon trains going north and west and travelling all night. It was said that this change would not pay, but it was a well-known and admitted fact that the profits of the railway company come from third-class passenger traffic. The third-class passengers were surely entitled to the same accommodation as the first class. They were not going to ask too much, because they knew the railway companies only had limited accommodation, but he thought the railway companies should on notice supply to the third-class passengers the same accommodation they supplied to the first class. Nor did they ask that all railways should supply this accommodation, but only the five railways travelling north and west, and those other railways connected therewith. They were obliged to deal with the matter in this way because they could not put a clause in the Bill, and therefore the only course to adopt was to move to reject the Bill. They did not want to throw it out, but he warned the railway companies and their supporters that they meant business and were determined, so far as lay in their power, to insist that all classes of His Majesty's subjects should be treated alike in both railway and other matters. And unless the company met them they would do their best to throw out the Bill whatever the consequences might be. The railway company must remember that all these concessions granted to railway companies by Parliament were not granted to them for the purpose of making money, but for the convenience of the public. He felt that the time had now arrived when Parliament ought to say that the people should be considered first and the railway shareholders afterwards. He moved the Motion standing in his name upon the Paper.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) formally seconded the Motion.

Amendment proposed.

"To leave out the word "now," and at the end of the Question to add the words "upon this day three months."—(*Mr. Morton.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

*MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) said he was amazed that not a single member of the Treasury Bench had risen to reply to his hon. friend. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Essex whom he saw sitting opposite had promised to give some information at the earliest opportunity; he promised to consult the railway companies, but neither the right hon. Gentleman nor the representative of the Board of Trade had thought fit to reply to his hon. friend the Member for Sutherland. The commercial traveller was greatly interested in this question. Resolutions from all parts of the country had been passed, and it was only right that the railway companies should redress a grievance which was felt by so many. If hon. Members wanted anything done they must avail themselves of every opportunity to place their desires before the House, notwithstanding the blandishments and fair promises of the Front Bench. He waited with anxiety for some statement from the hon. Gentleman representing the Board of Trade, and unless he had something to say of a satisfactory nature he should join his hon. friend the Member for Sutherland in the stand he was taking in regard to this railway and other railways.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. KEARLEY, Devonport) said that when this matter was under discussion about a month ago he gave an undertaking that he would place himself in communication with the railway companies and represent to them what he believed to be the growing feeling in this House that some facilities should be afforded in the direction desired by his hon. friends. In pursuance of his undertaking he suggested a conference at the Board of Trade. The Great Northern Railway Company sent its general manager, who was accompanied by other representative railway men. They gave an undertaking that the general managers of all the long-distance railway companies should meet to consider the question. The consultation was now going on, not in any spirit of trying to burke the issue, but with the firm determination of arriving at some decision which would be communicated to the House. A matter of this kind could not be decided off-hand. There were many practical questions to be considered, such as the increased length of trains, the extension of platforms, and so on. It was only fair, therefore, that the railway companies should have the opportunity of fully considering the matter.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 165; Noes, 114. (Division List, No. 150.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Acland-Hood, Rt.Hn.SirAlexF.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, A.Acland (Christchurch)
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Asquith, Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry,N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael HughHicks
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bennett, E. N.
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Cairns, Thomas
Carlile, E. Hildred
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Channing, Francis Allston
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clough, W.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,CH.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Dunne,MajorE.Martin(Walsall)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Findlay, Alexander
Forster, Henry William
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Gordon, SirW.Evans-(T'rHam.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hardy, Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Helmsley, Viscount
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon. S.,)
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Higham, John Sharp
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staffs'h.)
Hobart, Sir Robert
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kelley, George D.
Keswick, William
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Kitson, Sir James
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee

Lupton, Arnold
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Montagu, E. S.
Murray, James
Newnes, F. (Notts.,Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Norman, Henry
Nuttall, Harry
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Priestley,W.E.B. (Bradford,E.)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renton, Major Leslie
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'd.
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Runiciman, Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Saunderson,Rt.Hn.Col.Edw.J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool,Walton)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley)
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanley, Hn. A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Starkey, John R.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Valentia, Viscount
Verney, F. W.
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Sir John L.(Leeds, S.)
Ward, W.Dudley(Southampton
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whiteley, Geo. (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williamson, A.
Willoughby De Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh.,N.)
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B.Staurt-

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Abel Smith and Viscount Turnour.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Billson, Alfred
Black, ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)
Boland, John
Bottomley, Horatio
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Bryce, J.A.(Inverness Burghs)
Byles, William Pollard
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Ginnell, L.
Gulland, John W.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazelton, Richard
Helme, Norval Watson
Hogan, Michael
Hudson, Walter
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lundon, W.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Meagher, Michael
Mooney, J. J.
Murnaghan, George
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Radford, G. H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th.)
Richardson, A.
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Russell, T. W.
Scott, A.H.(Ashton underLyne)
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thos. S. (Leitrim, S.)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarthen
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Morton and Mr. Claude Hay.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, considered.

Amendments made.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read a third time."—(*Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

MR. MOONEY (Newry) asked an explanation why this extraordinary procedure was proposed in favour of this Bill. The Standing Orders laid down that no private Bill should get through two stages at one sitting of the House.

*MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Gentleman objects to this Motion being taken now, it must stand over.

MR. MOONEY: I do not object if there is any explanation.

MR. EMMOTT stated that this Bill had passed through all its stages in the House of Lords. The Bill had been several times postponed in this House, and it was quite usual for such facilities as he was now asking to be granted in the case of Bills which had been delayed owing to the action of the House, and through no fault of the promoters. He therefore asked the House to pass this Motion.

MR. MORTON: I object to this being taken. I do so on the ground that we have had no explanation from the railway company.

Motion accordingly opposed.

THE WORCESTER ELECTION.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.) apologised to the House for asking at that late hour for consideration of the Motion standing in his name. It only invited the House to adopt the course prescribed by Statute. He was not aware that in any previous case had any objection been made to it. He begged to move.

Question proposed, "Worcester Election—That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, as followeth:—

"Most Gracious Sovereign,

"We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave humbly to represent to Your Majesty that Sir John Compton Lawrence, knight, one of the Justices of the High Court of Justice, and Sir Joseph Walton, knight, one of the Justices of the High Court of Justice, being two of the Judges appointed for the trial of Election Petitions, pursuant to The Parliamentary Elections Act, 1868, and The Parliamentary Elections and Corrupt Practices Act, 1879, have reported to the House of Commons that there was reason to believe extensive corrupt practices had taken place at the last Election for the City of Worcester.

"We therefore humbly pray Your Majesty that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to cause inquiry to be made, pursuant to the powers of the Act of Parliament passed in the sixteenth year of the reign of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled 'An Act to provide for more effectual inquiry into the existence of Corrupt Practices at Elections for Members to serve in Parliament,' by the appointing of Edward Tindal Atkinson, esquire, one of Your Majesty's Counsel, Attorney-General for Your Majesty's County Palatine of Durham, and Recorder of Leeds; Horace Edmund Avory, esquire, also one of Your Majesty's Counsel and Recorder of Kingston-upon-Thames; and Charles Willie Matthews, esquire, Barrister at Law and Recorder of Salisbury, as Commissioners for the purpose of making inquiry into the existence of such corrupt practices."—(*Mr. Attorney-General.*)

Question put, and agreed to.

Ordered, That the said Address be communicated to the Lords, and their concurrence desired thereto. — (*Mr. Attorney-General.*)

And, it being after half-past Eleven of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at ten minutes before Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 26*th June*, 1906.

WORCESTER ELECTION.

Message from the Commons that they have agreed to the following Address to be presented to His Majesty, to which they desire the concurrence of this House—

"Worcester Election.

"Most Gracious Sovereign,

"We, your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave humbly to represent to Your Majesty that Sir John Compton Lawrence, knight, one of the Justices of the High Court of Justice, and Sir Joseph Walton, knight, one of the Justices of the High Court of Justice, being two of the Judges appointed for the trial of Election Petitions, pursuant to the Parliamentary Elections Act, 1868, and the Parliamentary Elections and Corrupt Practices Act, 1879, have reported to the House of Commons that there was reason to believe extensive corrupt practices had taken place at the last election for the city of Worcester.

"We therefore humbly pray your Majesty that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to cause inquiry to be made pursuant to the powers of the Act of Parliament passed in the sixteenth year of the reign of her late Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled "An Act to provide for more effectual inquiry into the existence of Corrupt Practices at elections for Members to serve in Parliament," by the appointing of Edward Tindal Atkinson, esquire, one of your Majesty's Counsel, Attorney-General for your Majesty's county Palatine of Durham, and Recorder of Leeds; Horace Edmund Avory, esquire, also one of your Majesty's Counsel and Recorder of Kingston-upon-Thames; and Charles Willie Matthews, esquire, Barrister-at-Law and Recorder of Salisbury, as Commissioners for the purpose of making inquiry into the existence of such corrupt practices.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with: Poole Corporation Water.

Also the Certificate that no further standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill: London County Council (Money).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Buckhaven, Methil, and Innerleven Burgh Extension Bill [h.l.]. Read 2^{a}.

Dowlais Gas Bill; Merthyr Tydfil Gas Bill. Read 3^{a}, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

St. John's (Westminster) Improvement Bill. Brought from the Commons; Read 1^{a}; and referred to the Examiners.

Crellin's Patents Bill [h.l.]; Rugby Lower School Bill [h.l.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to.

Haslingden Corporation Bill [h.l.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments; The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Glasgow and South Western Railway Order Confirmation Bill [h.l.]. A Bill to confirm a Provisional Order relating to the Glasgow and South Western Railway—Was presented by the Lord Hamilton of Dalzell (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, sections 8 and 9); Read 1^{a}; and to be printed. (No. 141.)

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Moved, That the order made on March 26th last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be now read 2^{a}; agreed to; Bills read 2^{a} accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the whole House on Thursday next.

[*An Asterisk* (*) *at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.*]

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.]; Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.]; Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [H.L.]. Amendments reported (according to order); and Bills to be read 3^a on Thursday next.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MALTA.

Correspondence between the Governor and the Archbishop-Bishop of Malta in regard to the holding of Protestant Mission Services at the Theatre Royal, Malta.

FISHERIES (SCOTLAND).

Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, being for the year 1905. Part II. Salmon Fisheries.

LONDON BUILDING ACTS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1905.

Précis of the evidence given before the Select Committees of both Houses of Parliament.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Draft Order in Council containing certain provisions in the Order in Council of March 6th, 1902; Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

OFFICE OF THE GENTLEMAN USHER OF THE BLACK ROD.

Report from the Select Committee (with the Proceedings of the Committee and an appendix) made, and to be printed. (No. 140.)

JUVENILE SMOKING BILL [H.L.]

The evidence taken from time to time before the Select Committee to be printed for the use of Members of this House; but no copies thereof to be delivered, except to the Members of the Committee, and to such other persons as the Committee think fit until further order. (No. 142.)

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (No. 2) BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee with further Amendments. The Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House and by the Standing Committee to be received on Thursday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 143.)

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee with an Amendment. The Report thereof to be received on Thursday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 144.)

INDIAN RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL; EDUCATION OF DEFECTIVE CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee without Amendment; and to be read 3^a on Thursday next.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five o'clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 26th June, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Cambrian Railways Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

St. John's (Westminster) Improvement Bill. As amended considered.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP I).

The CHAIRMAN of WAYS and MEANS informed the House that the Committee on Group I of Private Bills not being appointed to meet until Thursday next, the parties promoting the Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill [Wanstead and Woodford Order], which was set down for consideration on the first day of the meeting of the Committee, had appeared before him and proved that the evidence of Dr. John C. Thresh, medical officer for the county of Essex, was essential to their case, and that his evidence could not be procured without the intervention of the House.

Ordered, That the said Dr. John C. Thresh do attend the Committee on Group I of Private Bills on Thursday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Newtownards Urban District Council Bill [Lords]. Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Grocers' Licences (Scotland) Bill. Second Reading upon Friday.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (No. 6) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill; Local Government Provisional Order (Poor Law) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill, without Amendment:—

Amendments to—Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways Bill [Lords]; Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill [Lords]; Hull Joint Dock Bill [Lords]; without Amendment.

That they have passed a Bill intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Education, under the Education Acts, 1870 to 1903, to enable the Councils of the Administrative Counties of the Parts of Kesteven, Surrey, and Warwick, and the Municipal Borough of Ealing to put in force the Land Clauses Acts." [Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesteven, &c.) [Lords].

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesteven, &c.) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 273.]

PETITIONS.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT (1896) AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Haverfordwest, against; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; from Bedlington (two); Caerleon; Farndon; Findern; Flookburgh (two); Himley; Hitchin; Leaton; Marbury; Meriden; Radford; Rickling and Quendon; and Shrewsbury; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; from Liscard (two); Long Marston; and Menheniot; to lie upon the Table.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Petitions for alteration of Law; from Canterbury; and, Romsey; to lie upon the Table.

LAND VALUES TAXATION, ETC. (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, against; to lie upon the Table.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petitions for alteration; from Barry Dock or South Glamorgan; Burnley; Devizes (two); Doncaster; Ilkley; Maidstone (two); Otley; Seacombe; Winchester; and, Woolwich; to lie upon the Table.

POLLING ARRANGEMENTS (PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGHS) BILL [LORDS].

Petition from Shoreditch, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS BILL.

Petition from Sheffield, against; to lie upon the Table.

SUMMARY JURISDICTION (CHILDEN) BILL.

Petition from Royal Burghs of Scotland, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

SEA FISHERIES REGULATION ACT, 1888.

Paper [presented 25th June] to be printed. [No. 213.]

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (IRELAND) (FEMALE INSPECTORS).

Return [presented 25th June] to be printed. [No. 214.]

LONDON BUILDING ACTS (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1905.

Copy presented, of précis of the evidence given before the Select Committees of both Houses of Parliament [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Copy presented, of Report of the Royal Commission on Ecclesiastical Discipline [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

FISHERY BOARD (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland, being for the year 1905. Part II. Salmon Fisheries [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOROUGHS (RATEABLE VALUE).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 4th April; *Mr. John Tennant*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 215.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3653 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Draft Order in Council continuing certain provisions in the Order in Council of 6th March, 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Settlement of Isle of Lewis Cottars in Ross-shire.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state in what districts of the mainland of Ross-shire it is proposed to settle cottars migrated from the Island of Lewis.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) In 1901 inquiries were addressed to the Lewis Landward Committee upon this subject, who replied in the negative in December, 1905. Since then the Landward Committee report that there may be a prospect of some crofters or cottars being willing to migrate to the mainland. But the funds now at the disposal of the Board for purchase are very limited, and it is the opinion of the Board that, pending legislation, which the hon. Member knows is in course of preparation, no immediate steps can be taken in connection with the formation of new settlements.

Withholding of Increment due to Senior Telegraphists.

MR. C. J. O'DONNELL (Newington, Walworth): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that certain increments of salary due to senior telegraphist in the Central Telegraph Office on the April 1st, 1906, have been withheld; that the officials concerned have not been informed of the cause of their punishment, no reason, in fact, being assigned; and whether he will now let these officials know how they have been in fault, and give them an opportunity of defence before withholding the increments of salary they have earned.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The question whether the increments of certain overseers and senior telegraphists in the Central Telegraph Office can be allowed is under consideration, and I am not yet prepared to announce a decision. The officers concerned were informed in March last of the grounds on which the allowance of their increment was in doubt, and were invited to offer any explanation they might have to give.

Forcible Removal of Fishermen to Facilitate Naval Shooting Practice.

MR. MILDMAY (Devonshire, Totnes): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the attention of the Admiralty has been drawn to the action of H.M.S. "Theseus" in sending a launch to remove four fishermen from their fishing ground on the Skerries Bank in Start Bay on April 27th last, compelling them to abandon their crab pots under protest; whether their claims to compensation for loss of the day's work will be considered; and whether it will be possible to conduct the firing practice elsewhere along this coast, in view of the importance of this particular crab-pot ground to the poorer fishermen of the district.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) My attention has been drawn to the incident, and inquiries are being made, the result of which I will communicate to the hon. Member; but as the allegations of fact are conflicting there may be some little delay in clearing up the question.

Irish Land Purchase—Average Prices.

MR. P. A. MCHUGH (Sligo, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the average price in terms of years purchase paid by the Congested Districts Board for lands purchased by them in each of the years ended on March 31st, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, and 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The average prices paid by the Congested Districts Board for lands purchased by them in each of the years ended on March 31st from 1901 to 1906 were:—

Year ended 31st March.	Number of years' purchase of first-term rents.	Number of years' purchase of second-term rents.	Number of years' purchase of yearly rents, leaseholds, &c.	Number of years' purchase of annual value of untenanted land.
1901 - - -	15½	—	15	28
1902 - - -	15	18¾	15	28
1903 - - -	17	18¾	16	25½
1904 - - -	19	21	19½	28½
1905 - - -	18¾	20½	18¼	27¾
1906 - - -	18	21¼	18	29
Average price for the six years -	17¼	20	17	27¾

In this statement the number of years' purchase paid for land on all the estates bought in each year have been added together and divided by the number of estates concerned, without regard to the quantity of land bought in each estate.

Expedited Publication of South African Blue-Books.

MR. BRODIE (Surrey, Reigate): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can see his way to supply the House with Papers on South African questions at shorter intervals.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) Papers on the labour question in the Transvaal were published in December and in February, and it is proposed to issue further Papers of a general character in the course of next month. The House has been placed in possession of all the material information on the various topics to which its attention has been directed, by Questions addressed to me by hon. Members, through the medium of the Answers as well as by the statements made by me in the course of the Debates which have taken place, so that I do not think that the hon. Member can complain of lack of information. But the preparation of a new Blue-book shall be expedited.

British Policy Holders in American Insurance Companies.

Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in the interests of British policy holders in American insurances, he will communicate with the United States Government Insurance Department of State, as to the recent investigations in New York respecting American insurance companies, and give report of the same and also of the laws recently passed by the New York Insurance Department for the protection of policy holders; and whether he will consider the advisability of amending the Life Insurance Act of 1870.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) As stated in my reply yesterday, a Committee of the House of Lords is now considering what steps should be taken to provide adequate security for British policy holders in America, and other assurance companies which have their chief office outside the United Kingdom, and I propose to bring the hon. Member's Question to the notice of that Committee.

Oxfordshire Pupil Teachers' Centre.

Mr. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether the Board have, through their inspector, recommended that the Oxfordshire pupil teacher centre, which is under the control of the local education authority, shall be closed, that the male pupil teachers attending such centre shall be sent to the Oxford high school, and the female pupil teachers to the convent school; whether he is aware that in neither of these schools is there any laboratory; that excellent results have been secured at the centre, under a head teacher who has had experience as training college tutor and organising inspector; will he say whether this policy has received his sanction; and, if not, whether he will take steps to retain the pupil teachers in an institution under public control and free from denominational influences.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The general situation in regard to the existing pupil teacher centre, carried on by the Oxford City Council, to which, I presume, the hon. Member refers, has been brought to my notice. The facts, as known to the Board of Education, differ somewhat from the account of the case given in the Question. The centre was stated by the Board to be unsatisfactory more than two years ago, and grants were refused four months ago, in consequence of the continued failure of the local authority to improve matters. Every effort has been made by the Board to secure better provision being made by the local education authority, but so far without effective results. I understand, however, that the higher education committee of the city council have now considered the matter, and concur in the necessity of the arrangements suggested by the Board.

Sale of Lands of the Prynces Charity.

Sir WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): To ask the hon. Member for the Elland Division of Yorkshire, as representing the Charity Commissioners, whether any application has been received from the trustees of the Prynces charity in the parish of Holme Lacy, in the county of Hereford, for authority to sell the charity lands; whether any memorial against such sale has been received, or any request for a public inquiry; and whether the Charity Commissioners will undertake to postpone the sale, if any, until a public inquiry has been held, and if such sale is allowed, to order it to be by public auction.

(*Answered by Mr. Trevelyan.*) The present administrators of the charity have approached the Commissioners with reference to a sale of the charity land, but they have not yet made any formal application for authority to sell, and no memorial with respect to such proposed sale, or request for a public inquiry, has been received by the Commissioners.

Working of the Teachers' Register.

Sir EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the working of the Teachers' Register contravenes the Act of 1899, by making an invidious distinction between teachers in different categories of schools, and fails to carry out the intentions of Parliament as testified to by the memorandum of the

Board of Education [Cd. 3017]; and, if so, whether he contemplates rectifying this state of things, in view of the intention of His Majesty's Government to drop Clause 36 of the Education Bill.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I have nothing to add to the reply given to a Question addressed to me by the hon. Member for Stirlingshire on this subject this afternoon, except to say that I must not be taken as endorsing the accuracy of the description of the position of affairs contained in the two paragraphs of the Question.

Exchange Compensation Allowances to European Officers of the Indian Services.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will grant a Return containing copies of all the Resolutions issued by the Government of India, with regard to the grant of exchange compensation allowance to European officers of the Indian Services.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have no objection to the publication of a Return containing the Resolutions regarding exchange compensation allowance which have been issued by the Government of India.

Temporary Assistant Land Commissioner.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, prior to March 31st last, there is any official record of a case in which the services of a temporary Assistant Land Commissioner were dispensed with on the expiration of the period for which he had been temporarily employed, except on reduction of staff.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) There are official records of three such cases, two of which occurred in the year 1890, and one in the year 1897.

Payment of Fees for Teaching of Irish.

MR. WALTER LONG: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the proposed scheme, as recently outlined by him, for the payment of fees in respect of the teaching of Irish in national schools originated with the Board of National Education; or whether it was recommended in the first instance to the Board by the Irish Government.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) It would be contrary to the established practice to disclose any confidential communications which may have passed between the Irish Government and this or any other Board.

Dismissal of Assistant Land Commissioners.

MR. WALTER LONG: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether four of the five Assistant Land Commissioners, whose employment was recently discontinued, notwithstanding several years of approved service in each case, were subsequently reappointed for brief periods; and, if so, what were the circumstances which led to their reappointments.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Answer is in the affirmative. The gentlemen in question were, upon the recommendation of the Land Commission, reappointed for periods ranging from five to twelve weeks in order that the cases in which they had been engaged, but which has not been completed at the expiration of their term of office, might be disposed of without the necessity of incurring delay and expense in having the cases re-listed and re-heard.

Civil Examination for Assistant Land Commissioners.

MR. WALTER LONG: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in the opinion of the Irish Land Commissioners, the arrangement made with their approval some years ago for testing, by independent examination, at the hands of the Civil Service Commissioners, persons proposed to be appointed for the first time to the position of Assistant Commissioner, has worked satisfactorily; whether the views of the Land Commission were ascertained before it was recently determined to set aside this arrangement; and whether it has been decided to abrogate the arrangement in the cases of future similar appointments.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) Without expressing any disapproval of the arrangement by which some years ago, certain persons were examined by the

Civil Service Commissioners for the position of Assistant Land Commissioner, the Irish Government considered that an examination is not necessary where there existed ample evidence, aliunde, not only of the fitness but of the special merits of certain of the candidates who offered themselves for these posts. It would be improper to state the nature of confidential communications which passed between the Land Commission and the Government. The Lord-Lieutenant has not arrived at any decision as to whether the method of examination by the Civil Service Commissioners will be used in the future or not.

MR. WALTER LONG: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what is the date of the Land Commission rule prescribing qualifications for the position of Assistant Land Commissioner; whether he will enumerate these qualifications; whether contemporaneously with the making of the rule the Irish Government arranged, with the full approval of the Land Commission, that all persons proposed thereafter to be appointed for the first time to the office of Assistant Commissioner should be required to undergo examination, conducted by the Civil Service Commissioners, in order to test their qualifications as set forth in the rule; and in what manner, without such independent examination, were these qualifications specifically tested in the case of the five new Assistant Commissioners who were recently appointed.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The date of the rule is March 13th, 1899, The qualifications are prescribed in the following provision of the rules:—The following persons shall be competent to be appointed for the first time to the office of Assistant Commissioner:—Practising barristers and solicitors of not less than six years' standing; Persons possessing the following qualifications:—(a) A practical acquaintance with the value of land in Ireland, and knowledge of the methods of land valuation; (b) Knowledge of the principles of land surveying and mapping, including skill in computing areas from maps and plans; (c) General educational fitness; and (d) Physical health, and capacity for outdoor work in connection with land valuation. There is nothing to show that the arrangement as to Civil Service examination was intended to apply generally to all persons proposed thereafter to be appointed. No arrangement of the kind, even if contemplated, could have been binding, because the appointments in question are made by the Lord-Lieutenant for the time being, who may adopt any method he thinks suitable for satisfying himself that the persons to be appointed possess the prescribed qualifications. As to the concluding inquiry, I beg to refer to my reply to the Question of the hon. Member for Mid Armagh on May 10th, 1906.†

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of Jeremiah Murphy.

MR. SHEEHAN (Cork County, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have caused any inquiry to be made into the claim of Jeremiah Murphy, an evicted tenant on the estate of Bowen Colthurst, at Aharrin, Coachford, county Cork, for reinstatement; has the middleman, J. H. Weldon, Kilmallock, been approached in the matter, and, if so, with what result; and will he further state whether the negotiations for a sale of this estate have yet been concluded.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have had the holding in this case inspected, and having intimated to the middleman mentioned the price at which they would be prepared to purchase the holding if he should be in a position to sell it. Mr. Weldon has, however, refused to accept this price. The Commissioners are making further inquiries into the matter.

Belfast Harbour Commissioners.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether there is any supervision over the Belfast Harbour Commissioners by any governmental department; whether he is aware that the ex-officio representation on that Board by the Belfast Corporation is not in force, the present Lord Mayor being an elected representative; whether there is any intention by the Government to reform the elective franchise of this Board, on which at present the plural votes amount to 6,000 in a total of 14,000, the highest qualified elector having 46 votes and the lowest rating qualification being £20; and whether he will consider the advisability of taking action in this matter.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 1459.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Belfast Harbour Commissioners are not under the supervision of any department of the Government. The Lord Mayor of Belfast is ex-officio a member of the Harbour Board; but it is the fact that the present Lord Mayor is also an elected member of the Board. The electorate, consisting of shipowners and ratepayers, is constituted by The Belfast Harbour Act, 1883, the lowest rating qualification being £20. Plural votes are allowed by the Act, but I have no information as to the number of plural votes or as to the total number of electors. There are many other harbour boards in Ireland constituted on similar lines. So many suggestions for legislation on various subjects are made to the Irish Government that prudence dictates extreme caution before making any promises whatever.

Spread of Consumption in Ireland.

MR. FFRENCH (Wexford, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant whether he is aware that during the last thirty years the death rate from consumption in Ireland, per 10,000 of the population, has arisen from nineteen to twenty-two, whilst in England it has fallen from twenty-four to twelve; and whether to prevent the number of deaths from this disease in Ireland, about 13,000 annually, the Government contemplate providing, as in England, sanatoriums for the treatment of mild cases and isolation hospitals for incurables.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I beg to refer to the reply which I gave in the House to-day to a similar Question put by the hon. Member for West Cavan, when I stated the measures which are being taken to check the spread of consumption in Ireland. I think the hon. Member is under a misapprehension in thinking that the Government have provided in England institutions of the kind mentioned.

Irish Land Purchase—Application of Hugh Heavy of Tullyvilla, County Cavan.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will say why Hugh Heavy, of Tullyvilla, Curlough, county Cavan, a tenant on the estate of David Finlay, deceased, in the Land Judge's Court, has had his purchase application refused by the Land Commission; will he say what is the area of this tenant's holding; and whether he will be offered an opportunity for purchasing the holding, which has been in his possession for the past fifteen years.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the Registrar of the Land Judge's Court that Hugh Heavy has already purchased the holding comprising 10¾ acres on the Finlay estate, of which he was tenant. Heavy was also sub-tenant of 2¾ acres of land, of which, in order to facilitate the sale of the estate, he was made direct tenant. He has, however, declined to purchase this portion unless there is included in it certain land upon which he is stated to have encroached. The suggestion that Heavy's purchase application has been refused by the Land Commission appears to be founded upon a misapprehension.

Status of Clerical Staff of the Irish Registry of Titles (Central Office).

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether steps will be taken, having regard to the interests of the public service, to ascertain and establish the *status* of the clerical staff of the Irish Registry of Titles Central Office, which is at present undetermined; and whether the Law Officers of the Crown have been consulted as to the best means of placing the members of this staff in a well-defined and established position.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I beg to refer to the Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Bill, recently introduced by my right hon. and learned friend the Attorney-General for Ireland, which contains provisions regarding the *status* of both the present and future clerical staff of the office in question.

Scotch Volunteer Regiments attached to other than their own Brigade—Camp Allowance.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrew's Burghs): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to the case of Scotch Volunteer regiments which, owing to the local holiday time not coinciding with the period of training of their own brigades, are attached to other brigades for camp training, and thereby forfeit camp allowance under Class I, thus losing 25 per cent.; and whether, in consideration of the fact that they perform the same work and receive the same training, he will consider the advisability of granting them allowance under Class I.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) My attention has been drawn to the matter. Under paragraph 535 of the Volunteer Regulations battalions cannot draw Class 1 allowances unless they attend the camp of their own brigade or a camp with the regular forces. It has, however, been decided that in the case of units allotted, under Army Order 130 of 1906, to brigades other than those to which they formerly belonged, Class 1 allowances will be granted if they camp with either their old or their new brigades, subject to the usual conditions that a brigade camp must consist of not less than three battalions.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Naval Promotions.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what were the average and minimum ages of the officers promoted from lieutenant to commander in the last batch of promotions; and on what calculation does he base the estimate that the rank of commander will be reached at about thirty-seven years of age under the new system of providing officers for the Navy.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): The average and minimum ages were thirty-two years four months and thirty years respectively. With regard to the last part of the Question—which, I understand, refers to a statement made by me in the course of the debate on Navy Vote 5—what I had intended to say was that the rank of commander would be reached at from thirty-two to thirty-seven. The rank of lieutenant will be reached at about twenty-two-and-a-half, and it is estimated that from ten to fourteen years or thereabouts will elapse before a lieutenant becomes commander.

Ceylon Civil Establishment.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the proposal for the provision of Rs.250,000 per annum to the Ceylon Civil Establishment, in order to provide enhanced salaries on a gold standard for officials ordinarily recruited in Europe, was carried in the Ceylon Legislative Council by the votes of the European members of the council, many of them being officials who would or might benefit under the vote, in face of the unanimous opposition of the Ceylonese unofficial members of the council; and whether, seeing that a representative public meeting, held at Colombo on February 3rd, 1906, unanimously protested against this vote and submitted a memorial to the Secretary of State praying for a consideration of this protest, and in view of the feeling on the subject in the Colony, His Majesty's Government are prepared to give favourable consideration to the subject of this memorial.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): With regard to the first Question, I would refer the hon. Member to the Secretary of State's despatch of January 25th, a copy of which, as published in Ceylon, has been placed in the Library. The memorial referred to has been received and considered, but the Secretary of State has not seen any cause to alter his view of the question, and the memorialists have been so informed.

*SIR H. COTTON further asked whether it was established by Lord Ripon in a despatch of October 9, 1894, and confirmed by the right hon. gentleman the Member for West Birmingham in a despatch of February 4, 1896, that all officers in the public service of Ceylon, whether domiciled or not, and of whatever nationality, were to be granted compensation for exchange at a common rate, and were placed on an equal footing; and whether these orders had not been set aside by the decision of the Legislative Council to which he had already referred.

MR. CHURCHILL: This matter was far advanced when the transfer of power from the late to the present Government took place. I understand that the object of the new regulations is to secure the salaries of officers who may be domiciled in this country being permanently payable on the sterling basis and without interfering at all with the salaries of officers not domiciled in the United Kingdom. Obviously, it is only those officers *bona fide* living in the United Kingdom who suffer by the fluctuation in exchange.

SIR H. COTTON: Is the hon Gentleman aware that there is grave dissatisfaction in the island?

MR. CHURCHILL: Yes, Sir, some dissatisfaction has been shown. But it is largely due, I think, to a misunderstanding; and, if the hon. Gentleman would read the despatch to which I have referred, I think he will see there was considerable justification for the late Government in embarking on this course, and for the present Government in not immediately reversing it.

British Guiana.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies is he yet able to make any statement as to what action the Secretary for the Colonies has taken or intends to take in respect of the petition forwarded by the inhabitants of British Guiana, and a further petition from some members of the Court of Policy and Combined Court of British Guiana, containing grave allegations of misgovernment, and praying for the appointment of a committee of inquiry.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State's replies to the petitions in question were despatched to the Governor of British Guiana on June 7th, and will be published in the Colony in due course. The correspondence will be presented to Parliament.

Foreign Commercial Agents in British Colonies.

MR. LAIDLAW (Renfrewshire, E.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will lay upon the Table of the House a Return showing the number of commercial agents, other than consular agents, in the service of the respective Governments of Belgium, France, Germany, the United States of America, Japan, and Great Britain who are resident in the Colonies of Australia, and Canada and South Africa.

MR. CHURCHILL: I am afraid that considerable difficulty would be experienced in obtaining such a Return as the hon. Member desires; but if he can furnish me with more full information as to the object he has in view, I shall be in a better position to judge of the possibility of meeting his wishes.

Religious Processions in Malta.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if Protestant bodies in Malta are restricted from holding processions and other ceremonies in public, and, if so, will he explain why Roman Catholics are allowed this privilege.

MR. CHURCHILL: I am consulting the Governor of Malta upon the questions raised by the hon. Member's Question and as soon as I get his reply I will communicate with the hon. Member.

Appointments to the Indian Educational Service.

DR. HAZEL (West Bromwich): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the following gentleman have lately been appointed to Bengal in the Imperial educational service, viz., Mr. E. Candler, a newspaper correspondent to the principalship of the Hooghly College, Mr. J. A. Chapman, recently a clerk in an exchange bank, to the principalship of the Calcutta Madrassah, and Mr. W. Horn, recently a private tutor in the family of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, to an inspectorship of schools; whether, seeing that high university distinction has ordinarily been considered an indispensable condition for holding such appointments, he can say what are the educational qualifications and university distinctions of each of the gentlemen named; and whether their appointments have superseded eminent Indian graduates of British universities, who are employed in the lower paid and subordinate ranks of the provincial educational service.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. ELLIS, Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): The gentlemen referred to have been appointed to hold charge of the posts mentioned temporarily, during the absence on leave of the permanent holders, and have not been appointed permanently to the Indian Educational Service. Mr. Candler was engaged in teaching in India from 1896 to 1903, and is stated to have shown exceptional fitness for work of that nature; Mr. Horne and Mr. Chapman have also been employed in educational work with good practical results. Mr. Horne took honours at Edinburgh; Mr. Candler is a graduate of Cambridge: as to Mr. Chapman's university career I have no information. The posts in question, which are among those allotted to the Indian Educational Service, would ordinarily be filled from this country, and are not open to the members of the Provincial Educational Service, who therefore, have not been superseded by the selection of the gentlemen above mentioned.

DR. HAZEL: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that Mr. Candler was *Daily Mail* correspondent in Thibet? Is that a sufficient qualification for the headship of a college?

*MR. ELLIS: I have no information as to the supposed connection with this newspaper and must ask for notice.

*SIR H. COTTON: Has it not been usual to appoint a man of oriental attainments to the principalship of the Calcutta Madrassah, and was it desirable to select a clerk in an exchange bank for the office?

*MR. ELLIS: My hon. friend seems to lose sight of the fact that these appointments are temporary.

Chicago Meat Packing Trade.

MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has now received a report from His Majesty's Consul in Chicago of his inspection of the meat-packing establishments in that city; and whether the Report will be published.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (SIR EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): A report has been received and is being sent to the Local Government Board for their information. It was sent by the Consul for the information of His Majesty's Government, but I am doubtful as to the desirability of publishing any report except one written by an expert specially qualified to do so.

British Relations with Russia—Massacres of Jews in Russia.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the fact that owing to the murder of the King of Servia diplomatic relations were broken off with that country, he proposes to adopt a similar course in consequence of the recent massacre of Jews in Russia.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Answer is in the negative.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: May I ask what distinction is drawn between the assassination of two crowned heads in Servia and the wholesale slaughter of these poor people in Russia?

SIR EDWARD GREY: I will reply to that Question in my Answer to the hon. Member for the Elland Division.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on what date, approximately, during the summer months it is intended, under the present arrangements, that the British fleet should pay its ceremonial visit to a Russian port in the Baltic.

SIR EDWARD GREY: According to present arrangements, the fleet will in the course of its cruise in the Baltic call at Swedish, Russian, and German ports. It will call at four Russian ports. The exact dates have not yet been fixed, but they will be at the end of July and the beginning of August.

MR. TREVELYAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to appeals made in Russia to Great Britain not to send the British fleet on a ceremonial visit, on the ground that it would be interpreted in Russia as a demonstration hostile to the constitutional movement; whether he will make inquiries as to the prevalence or otherwise of this feeling among the constitutional party in Russia; and whether, meanwhile, His Majesty's Government will delay making final and unalterable arrangements for a visit of the fleet such as has been proposed.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I can add nothing to the Answers which I have already given. It seems to me quite out of the question that a visit of the fleet which was arranged some time ago should be regarded as having any reference whatever to internal affairs in Russia, or as having any influence upon them. Such visits during the summer cruise of the fleet have always been regarded hitherto as a simple act of courtesy to the country and people to whose neighbourhood the fleet has gone. But if it is desired that any fuller statement should be made, I would suggest that it should be postponed till the Foreign Office Vote, which is to be taken on July 5th.

Congo Free State.

MR. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether in view of the fact that the evidence of the Commission of Inquiry affecting the Congo Free State has been suppressed by King Leopold and that the rights of the signatory Powers have been repeatedly traversed especially in regard to the question of trade monopolies, he can see his way to request the other Powers concerned to join with His Majesty's Government in making urgent representation of King Leopold for a redress of the grievances disclosed by the Commission.

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury, for Sir EDWARD GREY): The Congo Government do not deny that they are bound by the stipulations of Article 5 of the Berlin Act. Before again approaching the Powers parties to that Act, it is necessary to see how the recently issued decrees are applied, and how far they are successful in providing a redress of the grievances disclosed by the Commission of Inquiry.

Brixton Prison.

MR. SEAVERNS (Lambeth, Brixton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that carpenters brought from Aylesbury are being employed by the contractors now building an addition to His Majesty's prison on Brixton Hill, and are being paid wages substantially lower than those paid to London carpenters; whether the contract provides that the wages current in London should be paid; and, if so, what action he proposes to take in the matter.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I have made inquiry, and find that the contract in question, like other contracts made by the Prison Commissioners, requires that the wages shall not be less than the rates current for competent men in the district. The carpenters employed are actually being paid either the union rate or more. One apprentice and three improvers who came from Aylesbury are also employed; but I understand it is claimed that the trades union rates do not apply to improvers for twelve months after they have completed their apprenticeship. The Prison Commissioners report that the terms of the contract are being observed, and that no complaint has been made to them, and on the information at present before me I can see no reason for my taking any action.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Why are the additions being made to this prison?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I suppose because they are needed.

MR. FLAVIN: We can lend you some Irish prisons.

Welsh Mine Inspection.

MR. LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS (Carmarthen District): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that Mr. Hugh Johnstone, who has been appointed chief inspector of mines for the Swansea district, has no knowledge of the Welsh language, and that the majority of the colliers in the Swansea district use Welsh as their ordinary speech; whether, before making the appointment, he had his attention directed to Section 39 (1) of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, which enacted that in such appointments in Wales and Monmouthshire preference should be given to persons having a knowledge of the Welsh language, and, if so, why that provision has been ignored in the present appointment; and whether, in view of the feeling entertained by all Welshmen, irrespective of party, on this matter, he can see his way to reconsider the appointment

*MR. GLADSTONE: My hon. friend is under a misapprehension in supposing that Mr. Johnstone has been appointed to take charge of the Swansea district. I have not filled the vacancy in that district by promoting an assistant inspector, but by transferring to Swansea Mr. W. N. Atkinson, one of the senior and most experienced of the existing inspectors, who is at present in charge of the Staffordshire district. In making the appointment I gave full consideration to the provision in the Act to which the hon. Member refers, which requires preference to be given to Welsh-speaking persons among candidates "otherwise equally qualified." In my judgment the South Wales coalfield is the most important of all, because of its particular liability to great disasters. In this matter, therefore, a very direct responsibility rests upon myself, and I felt it my duty to appoint an inspector whose standing and well-known experience specially qualify him for this post.

MR. LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the three inspectors on the staff at present, Mr. Pearson of Scotland, Mr. Matthews of Liverpool, and Mr. Lewis, have passed their examinations, have been for several years on the staff, and are perfectly qualified to fill this post?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I quite follow my hon. friend, but I cannot add anything more to what I have said. In my judgment the best qualifications are standing experience and ability, and without disrespect to the gentlemen named, Mr. Attkinson's qualifications are considerably higher than those of anybody else. That being so, I felt it my duty to the district in question to appoint a man qualified by experience and ability for the duties of the post.

MR. LLEWELLYN WILLIAMS: Does Mr. Attkinson know Welsh?

*MR. GLADSTONE: He does not know Welsh, but I am advised that, although it is quite desirable that Welshmen should be appointed as far as possible, yet so far as the necessary duties are concerned a knowledge of Welsh is not essential.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Glamorganshire, Rhondda): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the gentleman he has appointed to this most dangerous district has, according to his own admission, no experience whatever of the Welsh system of mining, and no acquaintance whatever with any Welsh colliery at all?

*MR. GLADSTONE: No, Sir. I am not aware of that; but after the most careful inquiry and consultation with mining engineers of practical experience of the subject I am quite satisfied that Mr. Atkinson is the best qualified man.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM: Seeing that the right hon. Gentleman is not aware of this important fact, will he kindly stay the appointment until he has ascertained whether this man knows anything about the Welsh system of mining?

*MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): Will the right hon. Gentleman say whether South Wales coalfields are not particularly liable to explosions from coal dust; whether Mr. Atkinson has any particular knowledge of that subject, and whether in that respect he is well qualified to deal with mines of the character of the Welsh coal mines?

MR. GLADSTONE: Yes, Sir.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM: May I ask this Gentleman, if he is allowed to give an opinion, to explain the difference in Welsh between——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order! order! The hon. Member is not entitled to ask a private Member a Question.

*MR. BRACE (Glamorganshire, S.): Arising out of this Question or discussion may I submit to the Home Secretary that this matter is so important to us—and we speak on behalf of 150,000 Welsh miners—that if he cannot agree to the reconsideration of it, we should have the opportunity of having the House adjourned later in the week, in order to debate the question fully.

MR. GLADSTONE: I would point out to my hon. friend that the debate on the Home Office Vote is bound to come on in the next two or three weeks, when there will be ample opportunity for a discussion of this very important question. For my part I make no complaint.

*MR. BRACE asked whether the Home Secretary would defer the confirmation of the appointment until after the Home Office Vote was taken, so that they might give their reasons to him for accepting their opinion on the matter as that of men who really did know something of the needs and requirements of the miners of South Wales.

COLONEL HERBERT (Monmouthshire, S.) also asked the right hon. Gentleman to ascertain whether the officials of the Home Office were aware of the difference between the coal mines of Wales and those in the North of England and Scotland.

MR. GLADSTONE said he had come to a decision after careful and close examination, and he could not delay the appointment.

*MR. BRACE: Then we will raise the question again.

Maghery (Moy) Post Office.

MR. MCKILLOP (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he will state the reasons for the removal, in October last, of the post office, which has been situate at Maghery, Moy, county Armagh, for the past sixty years, to Derrylee, two miles distant, and in the same delivery and only two miles distant from Tamnamore; and whether, seeing that Maghery is an important navigation station and tourist resort on the shore of Lough Neagh, and Derrylee an inland hamlet of a few houses only, and in view of the public meetings held in the district protesting against the change, he will say what postal and telegraph facilities are at present provided for the residents of Maghery, and for the requirements of the local industries in its neighbourhood, and state what steps are being taken to establish a post office and telegraph station in Maghery.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I will look into the matter.

Sea Encroachments.

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the Government have yet received the report of Mr. Matthews, as to the effects of the recent encroachments by the sea in the south-east corner of the East Riding of Yorkshire; and whether the Government intend to take any steps to prevent the recurrence of such encroachments during the approaching autumn and winter.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): The Board of Trade have received the joint report from Captain Frederick, one of their professional advisors and Mr. Matthews, C.M.G., as to the encroachment by the sea at and near Kilnsea. The report is receiving careful consideration, and I hope to be able to say shortly what conclusion has been arrived at.

MR. STANLEY WILSON: Can I see the report?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Certainly.

The Wreck of the "Courier."

SIR W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he has considered the Report of the local inquiry into the wreck of the "Courier" off Guernsey on April 30th last, whereby seven passengers, including five women and children, were drowned; and whether, in view of the evidence given, and of the differences in regard to regulations for merchant shipping obtaining in the Channel Islands from those observed in the British Isles, he will cause further investigation to be made into the circumstances connected with this disaster.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I have seen the Report of the inquiry held in Guernsey into the wreck of the "Courier." With regard to the differences between the the laws of the United Kingdom and the Channel Islands, I understand that communications are passing between my right hon. friend the Home Secretary and the Channel Islands authorities on the subject. The Board of Trade will be glad to co-operate in any measures that may be taken to bring the laws of the Channel Islands and the United Kingdom into harmony so far as it may be necessary to do so.

SIR W. J. COLLINS asked whether the Government would consider the propriety of introducing a new clause into the Merchant Shipping Bill making it applicable to the Channel Islands.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: We could hardly legislate for the Channel Islands. We do not legislate for the Colonies. We approach them, if necessary, to bring their legislation into line with our own.

Railway Working—Precaution against Accidents.

MR. WARDLE (Stockport): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the practice of banking passenger and other trains up inclines on the London and North Western and Midland Railways, without either the engine in the rear being coupled to the train in front or any continuous brake connection being formed; and whether, in view of the possibility of accident to the front engine or train, and with a view to securing safe working, especially at night, he will say what steps he proposes to take, if any, to avoid such risk.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I am in communication with the railway companies referred to, and hope to be able to give my hon. friend a reply if he will put down his Question again in a few days.

Ill-Treatment of Ship's Apprentices.

MR. H. H. MARKS: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether complaint has been made to him that four lads who, by apprentice indentures, became apprentices to Messrs. Gibson and Clark, of Glasgow, and in July, 1905, joined the ship the "Pass of Killicrankie," were on the voyage from Antwerp to Los Angelos, treated with cruelty by the second officer, that proper medical attendance was not afforded, that sufficient and proper food was not supplied, that the captain neglected to properly supervise his under-officers, that the log book is defective, and that the master's reports are incorrect; and will he state what action he is taking in the matter.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Attention has been called to the case to which the hon. Member refers, and I am having inquiries made into the circumstances so that I may be in a position to decide what, if any, action should be taken by the Board of Trade in the matter.

MR. H. H. MARKS: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware complaint was made to the Consul at Los Angelos? Will he get his report?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: That is one of the inquiries we are instituting.

The Technological College.

SIR W. J. COLLINS: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he can now state what action he proposes to take on the Report of the Departmental Committee on the Royal College of Science, &c.; and whether any reorganisation of the University of London is contemplated, with a view to the association with it of the proposed Technological College.

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. LOUGH, Islington, W., for Mr. BIRRELL): The Board are at present engaged in the preparation of a scheme for the establishment of a new institution on lines corresponding as closely as possible to those recommended by the Departmental Committee. The Board agree with that Committee in regarding it as of first importance that there should be no delay in the organisation of the institution, and with the recommendation of the Committee that its relation to the University of London should, in the first instance, be that of a "school of the University"—a recommendation in which the senate of the University have informed the Board that they concur. In considering the constitution of the new institution, the Board have had under consideration the suggestion of the Departmental Committee (No. 94, page 27) that without delaying the commencement of the new institution's work, a Royal Commission should be appointed to consider whether changes could advisedly be made in the character and constitution of the University which might make it desirable and possible to amalgamate the two institutions. They have also had before them the Resolution of the senate of the University deprecating the appointment of such a Royal Commission within so short a period after the reorganisation of the University, and expressing the desire that opportunity should be afforded for conference between the Board and the senate as to any changes of the kind suggested. In the course of the conference, which took place on March 9th, between the Board of Education and a deputation from the University senate upon these matters, the suggestions thrown out by the University deputation seemed to be contingent, practically, upon the incorporation of the new institution within the University. As this would necessitate a prolonged delay in the starting of the institution, which the Committee specially recommended should be avoided, the Board have found it impracticable to proceed on those lines, but are hastening as much as possible the preparation of a draft charter on the lines of the report of the Departmental Committee.

SIR W. J. COLLINS: Will an opportunity be afforded for further communications on the subject with the University of London?

MR. LOUGH: No doubt.

*SIR PHILIP MAGNUS (London University): Will the senate of the University of London have an opportunity of considering the scheme or draft charter before it is finally adopted by the Board of Education?

MR. LOUGH: I should like notice of that Question.

Registration of Teachers.

MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether, seeing that Clause 4 of the Board of Education Act, 1899, does not make preparation of the register of teachers obligatory, but only declares its preparation to be lawful, and that the teachers in Column B have paid fees for registration, he will consider the advisability of dropping Clause 36 of the Education Bill and cancelling the repeal of paragraph (a) of Clause 4 of the Board of Education Act, 1899, in the second schedule to the Bill, or, if such course be deemed inexpedient, of amending Clause 36 of the Bill by authorising the formation of a register of all teachers of approved training, irrespective of service in any particular type or class of school, with qualifications not less than those required for a university degree, competent to instruct children of school age.

MR. LOUGH: The points referred to in the Question will, I hope, receive full discussion in this House during the consideration of Clause 36 by the Committee. I do not think it wise to forestall that discussion by dealing with the matter beforehand by Answers to Questions such as that put to me by the hon. Member.

Miners' Association—Registration of Rules.

MR. RICHARDSON (Nottingham, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he is aware that in the year 1901 the Registrar of Friendly Societies registered the rules of the Derbyshire Miners' Association, containing as one of the objects of the association the promotion of legislation and labour representation, and that, on application being made by the Notts Miners' Association to register revised rules, he now requires the deletion of the same object from those rules; and will he explain why this distinction is being made.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): The chief registrar informs me that his action with regard to the Notts Miners' Association was based upon the interpretation, which he places upon the definition of a trade union as given in Section 16 of the Trade Union Act (1871) Amendment Act. The action referred to in 1901 was taken by the predecessor of the present chief registrar, presumably upon a different interpretation of his duties under the Act.

Pupil Teachers' Grants in Scotland.

MR. GULLAND (Dumfries Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that, in the new regulations for pupil teachers in England, an additional grant of £2 per head is given to county councils for the travelling and other incidental expenses of pupil teachers, making a total grant of £9 for each pupil teacher; and whether, in addition to the £8 per head allowed for the junior students in the minute for training of teachers in Scotland, he will endeavour to secure a similar grant for Scotland.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): The cost to the Treasury, under the new regulations for England, of a pupil teacher who completes a three years course is £6+£9+£9=£24—exactly the cost of a junior student who completes his course under the regulations for Scotland. But a large proportion of the pupil teachers in England take only a two years course, in which case their cost to the Treasury is only £9+£9=£18—less than in Scotland.

South Leith Manse Assessment.

*MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware of the dissatisfaction existing in Edinburgh and Leith against the proposal to levy an ecclesiastical assessment for repairs on the manse of South Leith parish church; whether he is aware that these repairs cost £589, to which is to be added the cost of collection, amounting to an additional £400, and that an assessment of five-eighths of a penny per pound is to be levied, which will produce £1,250; whether he is aware that meetings have been held pledging the heritors to resist the imposition of the assessment; and if he will consider the advisability of introducing legislation to prevent the levying of such assessments.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith): I beg also to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether, in view of the facts disclosed in the South Leith manse assessment case, he will propose legislation to abate such impositions in Scotland.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was also aware that at a kirk session an intimation was given that relief would be given to heritors under £50 and that those over £50 would be relieved to the extent of the assessment.

MR. SINCLAIR: Opinion among the heritors appears to be divided, and I am informed that the cost of collection did not amount to £400. With these exceptions, my hon. friend's statement of the facts, so far as it goes, seems to be correct. In reply to his last Question and that of my hon. friend the Member for Leith I may remind them that in 1900 the late Government passed an Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland) Act. The procedure laid down by that Act is apparently being followed by the heritors in this instance, and will be closely watched by the Government with the view of considering the advisability of introducing further legislation.

*MR. McCRAE: Is my right hon. friend aware that yesterday at a meeting of the heritors, amid disorder, a motion was said to be carried to impose the assessment? And will he give facilities for a Private Member's Bill dealing with the matter?

MR. SINCLAIR: I know nothing about the meeting, and cannot give any undertaking as to a measure till I have seen it.

Sound of Kilbrennan—Herring Fishing.

*MR. LAMONT (Buteshire): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that, in the Sound of Kilbrennan, herring fishing is being systematically prosecuted during daylight hours, in contravention of the Act 52 and 53 Vic., c. 23, s. 5; and whether, in view of the injury thereby done to those fishermen who abide by the law, he will now direct the Scottish Fishery Board to perform their duty in securing the enforcement of the statute.

MR. SINCLAIR: I am not aware that there has been systematic contravention of the Act 52 and 53 Vic., c. 23, s. 6, but on Friday last the Fishery Board for Scotland received a complaint on the subject, and telegraphed to the commander of the fishery cruiser "Vigilant" instructing him to proceed to the Sound to inquire and report on the matter. If the complaints prove to be well founded, steps will be taken to enforce the law.

Cork Magistracy.

Mr. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that, of the nine magistrates appointed in the county of Cork from May, 1905, to March, 1906, eight are Protestant Gentlemen and only one Catholic; and whether, in view of this disparity, representations will be made to the Lord Chancellor to appoint some of the gentlemen who have recently been recommended by district councils and other popularly elected bodies.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. Cherry, Liverpool, Exchange): I am not aware, except from what the hon. Member tells me, of the religious beliefs of the gentlemen appointed to the Commission of the Peace in the county of Cork during the period mentioned in the Question. The appointments referred to, I am informed, were all made before the present Government came into office. Any representations which I may receive from district councils or other elected bodies recommending the appointment of gentlemen to the Commission of the Peace, I shall with pleasure submit to the Lord Chancellor, and I am sure that he will give them his most favourable consideration.

Cooscroum (Kerry) Pier.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that the necessity for building a slip or pier at Cooscroum, county Kerry, was brought to his personal knowledge when in that district, and that the local district council has passed a Resolution in favour of the scheme, that there are no facilities for landing afforded to the thirty fishing boats which use the cove, and that, owing to the presence of massive boulders, it is impossible in stormy weather for more than one boat at a time to be hauled up, he will urge upon the Congested Districts Board the necessity of providing landing facilities, or else avail himself of the powers under the Marine Works Act, in conjunction with the Congested Districts Board, to construct a pier.

Mr. CHERRY (for Mr. Bryce): On the occasion of my recent visit to the locality, I received a memorial from the fishermen of Cooscroum asking for the construction of a landing place there, and was impressed by the facts therein brought before me. The memorial will be considered by the Congested Districts Board at the next meeting.

Irish Fisheries—Boat Building Return.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state when the Return as to the building of boats for the various Government Departments connected with Irish fisheries, ordered by this House earlier in the present session, will be laid.

Mr. CHERRY: The Return is, I understand, approaching completion, and will be laid on the Table in the course of a few days.

Marine Works Act.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will give a Return, showing the result of the inquiries made by the Board of Public Works in Ireland, in connection with the investigations conducted by the late Government with a view to the extension of the operations of the Marine Works Act to districts outside the congested districts, and referred to in this House by the late Chief Secretary in March, 1905, and by his predecessor in July, 1904, and March, 1904.

Mr. CHERRY: I am informed that there is no record of any investigation having been conducted by the late Irish Government with the view indicated in the Question, and that the Board of Works have made no inquiries in the matter. I cannot find that either of my predecessors in office referred to the subject in this House at the dates mentioned, but if the hon. Baronet will give me a more precise reference I will have the matter further looked into.

Artisans' Dwellings in Irish Urban Districts.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, pending legislation for the granting of facilities for the erection of artisans' dwellings in urban districts in Ireland, steps will be taken by a departmental arrangement to enable urban authorities to borrow on easier and cheaper terms money required for the better housing of labourers in the towns.

MR. CHERRY: I am afraid that what the hon. Member asks is not possible without legislation. If reference be made to Section 1 of the Public Works Loans Act, 1897, it will be seen that loans to local bodies can only be made at rates which will not involve loss to the local loans fund, and I am informed that the rates now charged are only such as are necessary to keep that fund self-supporting. I would refer the hon. Member to my reply to the Question of the hon. Member for West Kerry on Thursday last.†

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): Is not money raised at 3 per cent. and lent to the local authorities at 4¼ per cent.?

MR. CHERRY: That Question should be addressed to the Secretary to the Treasury.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Will the right hon. Gentleman bear in mind that there is a strong feeling in Ireland that working men living in towns should be afforded equal facilities with those in the country for buying cottages? Will he bring in a legislation to secure that?

MR. CHERRY: In view of the state of business I do not think legislation would be possible this year.

MR. FLAVIN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that in urban areas the wage of the artisan is little more than that of the agricultural labourer?

MR. CHERRY: Yes, and I certainly think the labourers in urban districts deserve consideration.

Irish Land Purchase—Average Prices.

MR. P. A. MCHUGH (Sligo, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the average price in terms of years' purchase paid by the Congested Districts Board for lands purchased by them in each of the years ended on March 31st, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, and 1906.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): The Answer to this Question contains a tabular statement of figures which could not be made very intelligible in an oral reply, and with the hon. Member's permission I will circulate the Answer with the Votes.‡

Price of Congested Estates.

MR. P. A. MCHUGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state, in terms of years' purchase, the average price paid by the Estates Commissioners for congested estates purchased by them in each of the years ended March 31st, 1904, 1905, and 1906 respectively.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have not yet completed the purchase of any congested estate. They have agreed during the year ended March 31st, 1906, to purchase one congested estate and the price to be paid for tenanted portion of this estate is 22·2 years purchase.

Clare Evicted Tenants.

MR. HALPIN (Clare, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the number of evicted tenants in West Clare and in East Clare respectively who have applied to the Estates Commissioners to have them reinstated in their holdings; and whether he is aware of the number of evicted tenants in both divisions who have not yet applied to be reinstated, but who are just doing so.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners have received applications from 217 persons seeking reinstatement as evicted tenants in the entire county of Clare. The Commissioners' records are not kept by Parliamentary divisions. They have no information as to the number of evicted tenants who have not yet applied, but are about to do so.

Evicted Farms in County Clare.

MR. HALPIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will make inquiries from the Estates Commissioners why their inspector, who went to West Clare and to East Clare to inspect evicted tenants' holdings, has not yet inspected several of these holdings; whether he will give instructions to the Estates Commissioners to have their inspectors visit every evicted farm in Clare as soon as possible; and whether, in view of the fact that some of those people have had to go into the towns and villages to earn what will support their families, he will request the Estates Commissioners to apply to honorary secretaries of the local branches of the United Irish League to give them information in reference to the evictions, especially of those who have not yet applied to them for reinstatement.

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† See Col. 374.

‡ See Col. 754.

*MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that their inspector in Clare is inquiring into the applications of evicted tenants in that county as rapidly as possible. Over 200 applications have been received, and inquiries into all these cases must obviously take time. The Commissioners tell me that they will duly consider any useful information regarding evicted tenants which may reach them from any source. I infer that they do not propose to make inquiries into the cases of evicted tenants from whom no application is received.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the settlement of this question is really bound up with the public peace in Ireland?

*MR. BRYCE: Yes, and I am sure the Estates Commissioners fully appreciate the importance of dealing with these cases as soon as possible.

South Cork Fisheries.

MR. EDWARD BARRY (Cork County, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has satisfied himself that the fisheries in Unionhall and other centres in South Cork, as well as mineral resources of Benduff and other quarries in the neighbourhood of Rosscarbery, cannot be effectually developed without the construction of a local railway for the more rapid transit of fish, slate, and other products; and, if so, will steps be taken to carry this project into effect.

*MR. BRYCE: I beg to refer to the reply given on my behalf by my right hon. friend the Attorney-General for Ireland to the hon. Member's previous question on May 17th.† It was then stated that the subject of railway extension to the district in question will be duly considered should there be a prospect of obtaining funds for the purpose. I have since then visited the district and should be glad to see its resources further developed, but so many plans for developing different parts of Ireland have come before me, all involving large expenditure, that I cannot venture at present to give an undertaking regarding the particular extension desired by the hon. Member.

Muckross Barytes Mines.

MR. EDWARD BARRY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether seeing that the working of the barytes mines at Muckross, Ardfield, Clonakilty, has been suspended some time, thereby throwing a number of skilled workmen in that district out of employment, and seeing that those mines yield the best mineral of that species in the South of Ireland, and in view of the number of miners in that district awaiting the resumption of work at these mines, steps will be taken to induce the Department of Agriculture to send down an inspector to report on their condition and capabilities.

*MR. BRYCE: The Department of Agriculture intend to have the locality in question visited by their expert, but owing to the pressure of prior engagements it will not be practicable for him to make inspections in that locality for some time to come.

Loans for Labourers' Cottages.

MR. SHEEHAN (Cork County, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will consider the desirability of representing to the Treasury the great convenience which would result to several rural district councils in Ireland, and to hundreds of labourers whose applications for cottages have passed all the Local Government Board inquiries, if arrangements could be made in the Labourers Bill whereby loans could be issued at the reduced rate of interest immediately on the Royal Assent being given to it in all cases in which schemes are at present perfected.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvii., 659.

*MR. BRYCE: I will convey to the Treasury the suggestion made by the hon. Member, but he will realise that the adoption of any earlier date than that mentioned in the Bill might involve administrative difficulty.

Constable Masterson, Royal Irish Constabulary.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any information is forthcoming of the whereabouts of Constable Masterson, Royal Irish Constabulary, late of Mountmellick, who was returned for trial to the Queen's County assizes for an assault committed on Edward Carroll, Rosenallis, on March 17th, 1905; and whether he can say why Masterson was permitted to abscond pending trial, and the payment of damages obtained against him in a civil action arising out of the same case.

I beg also to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a verdict for £100 damages and costs was obtained by a labourer, named Edward Carroll, Lacken, Rosenallis, Queen's County, against Constables Masterson and Cryan, Royal Irish Constabulary, late of Mountmellick, for an assault committed on March 17th, 1905; can he say if the damages have been paid; and, if not, will he see, considering Carroll's health has been permanently injured, that Constable Cryan, who is still in the force, does not evade his responsibilities in the matter.

MR. BRYCE: The Inspector-General informs me that no information is forthcoming as to the whereabouts of ex-constable Masterson. The matters referred to occurred before the present Government came into office, and I find that my predecessor made a full statement upon the matters in reply to Questions put by the hon. Member. As regards the case of Constable Cryan, I am informed that no change has taken place since I answered the hon. Member's previous Question on March 1st last.† The plaintiff does not appear to have accepted the constable's offer to pay his share of the damages by instalments. The question of proceeding for the recovery of the damages is one for the plaintiff.

Cappamore Evicted Tenants.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that William O'Brien, of Curraghlahan, Cappamore, county Limerick, has been since August, 1899, evicted from his holding; and will he take steps, through the Estates Commissioners, to reinstate O'Brien in his farm or in a farm of equivalent value elsewhere.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners have received from William O'Brien an application for reinstatement as an evicted tenant. The Commissioners will have the case enquired into, but until their inspector's report has been received they are unable to state what action they may take in the matter.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): Has the inspector gone down to this place yet?

MR. BRYCE: I am not aware, but I do know the Commission are doing all they can to dispose of these cases.

Lloyd Estate, Cappamore.

MR. LUNDON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on the Lloyd estate, Portnard, Cappamore, county Limerick, negotiations for sale and purchase, as between landlord and tenants, were opened about six years ago, before the Judge of the Land Court, under the fortieth section of the Land Act of 1896, but were adjourned until the rental could be arranged; that about a year later the mortgagees on the property offered to sell at nineteen years purchase, the tenants offering eighteen years; and will he take steps, through the Estates Commissioners, to open negotiations again for the sale.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Land Commission that the only estate in the district referred to in regard to which a request under the section quoted was lodged with the Commissioners was the estate of William Thomas Lloyd. The holdings on this estate were with one exception sold to the tenants in the year

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† See (4) *Debates*, clii., 1270.

1901. If the hon. Member refers to the estate of R. E. Lloyd, no proceedings have, I am informed, ever taken place under Section 40 in regard to it.

Irish Intermediate Education Commission.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Intermediate Education Commissioners changed their programme last year, two months after the school year began, by replacing botany as a special subject counting for an exhibition, after they had deposed it and hygiene, amongst other subjects, in the rules issued in 1906; and whether, seeing that the Board did make these alterations in their programme in the month of October, when the House was not sitting, he will explain why they refuse now to make alterations involving no greater difficulty.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Commissioners of Intermediate Education that the facts are as stated in the Question. The alteration made in the month of October, 1905, in the rules for 1906 affected a very small number of candidates and did not in any way influence the conditions of passing the examination generally. The alterations now in question would concern a very large number of candidates and the character of the pass examination would be modified.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: Is it not a fact that the alterations which this House adopted were not at all as difficult as the alterations adopted by the Board without the consent of the House?

MR. BRYCE: That is not the case according to the information given me by the Board.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: Is it not a fact that members of the Board have stated that it is misleading to say that there is any difficulty whatever in adopting the suggestions of the House?

MR. BRYCE: I do not know.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: Can we get a day to discuss this matter, because it is a very serious one.

MR. BRYCE: The business of the House is not under my control, as the hon. Member knows.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Is the right hon. Gentleman now in a position to give an Answer to the Question I addressed to him the other day—is it true that after this House unanimously passed a Resolution altering these rules the Board of Intermediate Education passed a Resolution refusing to alter them?

MR. BRYCE: I do not think that arises out of the Question, but at any rate I am not in a position to announce the terms of the correspondence.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S): Is it a fact that this House has no control over the Commissioners?

MR. BRYCE: Hon. Members can look at the statute under which the Board was established and they will see what the legal position is.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Has not the Board control in this respect, that if the Board disregard the action of this House the right hon. Gentleman or the Government can dismiss the Board?

MR. BRYCE: I am not aware that that is so.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Is not the Board by its very constitution bound by a Resolution of this House?

MR. BRYCE: I venture to think, Mr. Speaker, that these questions do not arise out of the Question on the Paper.

Protection of Irish Fisheries.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that the Admiralty place at the disposal of the Scotch fishery authorities gunboats, to assist the gunboats provided by the Fishery Board for prohibiting illegal fishing, and in view of the injury done to the Irish fisheries by steam trawlers, and the extent of coast to be patrolled, he will make application to the Admiralty to supply gunboats to assist those at present employed by the Irish fishery authorities for the protection of the Irish Fisheries.

MR. BRYCE: The question of the assistance to be rendered by the Admiralty in the protection of Irish Fisheries has from time to time been the subject of correspondence between the Irish Government and the Admiralty, from which it would appear that the function of the Admiralty is confined to the protection of Irish territorial waters from foreign vessels. Admiralty cruisers are employed for this purpose in Irish waters as occasion requires, and I understand that a conviction was recently obtained in Ireland against a foreign vessel captured by an Admiralty cruiser. The areas around the Irish coast in which steam trawling is prohibited are effectively patrolled by the Department of Agriculture's steam cruiser "Helga," with the occasional assistance of the steamship "Granuaille," which belongs to the Congested Districts Board.

MR. POWER: But the Admiralty do afford assistance to Scottish fisheries.

MR. BRYCE: Yes, but only for one purpose. There is a difference between the law of Scotland and of Ireland, but it does not affect the general duty of the Admiralty as regards trawlers.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): And only yesterday a Minister of the Crown promised protection to the Cornish crabbers.

*MR. SPEAKER: That does not arise out of the Question on the Paper.

Kilcloney Evicted Farm.

MR. HAMMOND (Carlow): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland is he aware that the caretaker, O'Neill, is still in possession of the evicted farm known as Kilcloney, near Borris, in Carlow County, and that within the past two weeks he cut down and had carted away some trees planted on the holding by the Waters' family, which he had no right to do; will he say if the Estates Commissioners have purchased this Kilcloney farm; and, if so, on what date, and will Mr. Waters be reinstated.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners understand that O'Neill is still in occupation of the farm in question, but they inform me that they have decided not to sell the farm to him. The offer which the Commissioners are about to make for the purchase of the estate, provides for the sale to them of this farm as untenanted land. Patrick Waters has signed an undertaking to purchase it from the Commissioners in the event of their acquiring the estate, and he will be reinstated if their offer should be accepted. The Commissioners have no information as to the alleged cutting of trees by O'Neill.

Dunmore Fishery.

MR. POWER: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state how many local fishermen are now employed in beam trawling and line and trammel fishing at Dunmore East, county Waterford; is he aware that more than twenty beam trawlers were employed at Dunmore before steam trawling was introduced, and that the supply of trawl fish has decreased, and the price of the same increased since the introduction of steam trawling.

MR. BRYCE: The Department of Agriculture are aware that there is one local boat using a beam trawl at Dunmore East, and a few small boats that occasionally fish with lines. About ten years ago, before the steam trawling began, a number of English and Irish herring boats frequented Dunmore East for the purpose of trawling. At an inquiry recently held at Dunmore East, evidence was given that the price for trawl fish in Waterford was higher since the advent of steam trawling. I have no information as to whether the supply of trawl fish has decreased.

Inspection of Bilingual Schools.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland can he state whether any, and, if so, what steps have been taken to secure that the inspection of bilingual schools shall be competently conducted; whether he is aware that the teachers of a bilingual school at Partry, Ballinrobe, have been condemned on the report of an inspector who is not qualified to inspect a bilingual school; and whether it is proposed to act on this report.

MR. BRYCE: The Commissioners of National Education inform me that schools in which the bilingual programme has been sanctioned are inspected by inspectors who have a competent knowledge of Irish, and the annual inspections are in all cases conducted by these officers. Incidental visits to such schools are also paid by the inspector of the district, and in the case referred to the district inspector has reported serious defects in the teaching. As a result, the Commissioners have informed the manager that unless a marked improvement in the proficiency of the pupils should take place, the retention of the bilingual programme in the school will be re-considered. The action which the Commissioners may take in the matter will depend upon the character of the next Report to be furnished by one of the inspectors specially in charge of the bilingual schools.

MR. BOLAND: Did not the inspector state in this case that too much attention was given to Irish; what can be his definition of a bilingual school?

MR. BRYCE: I am not aware of that statement. There is nothing so dangerous as to give definitions.

Fees for Irish Instruction.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland can he state the number of schools in which, according to the latest Returns, fees for Irish were paid during the last year; the number of pupils paid for instruction in Irish in these schools during the past year, the number of pupils in standards higher than first, in average attendance at these schools during the past year; the amount of special fees for Irish paid in these schools during the past year; the amount of fees which would have been paid in these schools if payment under the proposed new regulations was made for every pupil in the school in average attendance in standards higher than the first.

MR. BRYCE: I am informed by the Commissioners of National Education that the number of schools in which fees were paid for Irish during the past year was 1,234, and the number of pupils in respect of whose instruction in Irish fees were paid was 25,265. No Returns are, I am informed, available from which it can be ascertained how many pupils, in standards higher than the first, were in average attendance during the past year. The amount of special fees for Irish paid in these schools last year was £11,6 3. The Commissioners cannot estimate the amount of fees which would have been paid in the circumstances mentioned in the last paragraph.

Prevention of Consumption in Ireland.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a pamphlet from the Ulster branch of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption in Ireland, setting out that in the last thirty years the death rate from consumption per 10,000 of the population has fallen in England from twenty-four to twelve, while in Ireland the death-rate from this preventible disease has risen from nineteen to twenty-two per 10,000 of the population, and that annually nearly 13,000 people die in Ireland from this disease; will he say if this sacrifice of life is having the attention of the Government; and will the whole matter be immediately dealt with by legislation or otherwise.

MR. BRYCE: I have received the pamphlet referred to. The figures are substantially, though not precisely, as stated. The fall in England during the last thirty years was from twenty-one (not twenty-four) to twelve per 10,000. The rise in Ireland was from eighteen (not nineteen) to twenty-two. The Local Government Board are about to issue circulars to local authorities and medical officers of health containing recommendations and instructions as to the means to be adopted to check the spread of consumption. The subject has been receiving, and will continue to receive, the careful consideration of the Government.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): Has the attention of the right hon. Gentleman been directed to an order issued by the Scottish Local Government Board on this subject?

MR. BRYCE: Yes.

Fair Rent Appeals.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state how many fair rent appeals are pending before the Land Commission; how many of these appeals are from the Sub-Commission and the county court respectively; how many of these appeals have been lodged by the tenant to June 1st, 1906; and how many by the landlord, excluding cases of cross appeal.

MR. BRYCE: The Land Commission inform me that on June 1st, 1906, the number of fair rent appeals pending before them was 9,264, of which 8,503 were cases from sub-commissions, and 761 from county courts. It would not, I am informed, be possible to state how many of these appeals were lodged by the tenant and landlord, respectively, without an examination of the notice of appeal in each of the 9,264 cases, and this would take a very considerable time.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: Can the right hon. Gentleman hold out any hope that the hearing of these appeals will be expedited?

MR. BRYCE: I will do my best, but the matter is not under my control.

MR. FLAVIN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that some of these appeals were entered four or five years ago, and are not yet listed for hearing?

MR. BRYCE: I have no information as to that.

MR. FLAVIN: I have personal knowledge of it.

Congested Districts Board Clerks—Examination Papers.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether officials of the Congested Districts Board for Ireland mark the papers set at the examinations for temporary clerks in their offices; and, if so, will he consider the advisability of employing capable outsiders independent of the Board for the purpose, in view of complaints among candidates as to the marking of their papers by possibly influenced or prejudiced officials.

MR. BRYCE: The examination papers of candidates for temporary clerkships in the office of the Congested Districts Board are marked by the secretary, assistant secretary, and chief clerk, who have before them the candidates' examination numbers only. The employment of outside examiners would be a considerable charge on the Board's funds, and is not considered necessary. No complaint as to the marking of examination papers has ever been made to the Board, but it is perhaps hardly to be expected that all unsuccessful candidates should be satisfied with the results.

Irish Bankruptcy Law.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the Committee which has been appointed to inquire into the Bankruptcy Laws has received instructions to investigate the state of the Law in Ireland; and, if not, whether, having regard to the desire in Ireland to have the Law altered so as to conform with the English Bankruptcy Law, he will arrange that the question of Irish Bankruptcy Law shall be inquired into.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: The terms of reference to the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade are wide enough to include Ireland; but the Committee has no representative of Irish opinion upon it. It is a purely Departmental Committee, and as the powers of the Board of Trade in relation to Bankruptcy matters do not extend to Ireland they would not be justified in investigating the question of the Irish Bankruptcy Laws except with the assent of the Irish Office. I shall be happy to furnish the hon. Member with a copy of the statement of the Chairman of the Committee as to the course which it is intended to pursue on that point.

Irish Finance.

MR. THOMAS ESMONDE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he can state the amount of interest to the end of June, 1906, realised by the arrangements made last year for the utilising of the current balances of certain Irish public funds by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer; and if he will continue the inquiry initiated by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer for the purpose of ascertaining whether further funds credited to Irish public departments, or held by the Treasury for Irish purposes, can be similarly utilised with a view to increasing the sums now available for the purposes of Irish development; and whether he will arrange to have a separate account of the sums realised under the existing arrangements and under any further arrangements shown annually in connection with Irish Estimates or in a Parliamentary Return.

MR. McKENNA: As shown in the Annual Report under the Ireland Development Grant Act (Command Paper No. 2937) the amount received by the Development Grant Fund during 1905–6 for interest on monies placed on deposit at the Bank was £751 11s. 8d. The amount received as interest by the Department of Agriculture and the Congested Districts Board are shown in statements appended to the annual Appropriation Accounts, and similar receipts are shown in the accounts rendered to Parliament in respect of other funds. I understand that the result of inquiries made last year was to show that the available balances in the hands of Irish Departments were duly turned to account. I have no reason to doubt that such is still the case.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE suggested that a general statement might be got out showing the amount derived annually.

MR. McKENNA: These figures are already given fully. I do not think it would be worth while to make a special return.

The Unemployed.

MR. HAROLD COX (Preston): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether in any proposals that His Majesty's Government may make for dealing with the problem of the unemployed they will take care that men and women now in employment are not thrown out of employment by the diminution, through taxation, of funds now spent by private persons in giving employment to the wage-earning classes.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): My hon. friend's Question is rather in the nature of a friendly admonition than an ordinary interrogation; but I may tell him that we are quite alive to the importance of the point to which he directs our attention.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill: Mr. Secretary Gladstone and Sir Charles Dilke; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Leif Jones and Mr. Wiles.

Sir BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee, That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures: Mr. Higham; and had appointed in substitution Mr. Charles Hobhouse.

Sir BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee, That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure: Mr. Charles Hobhouse; and had appointed in substitution Mr. Higham.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Law and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Charitable Loan Societies (Ireland) Bill: Mr. John Redmond, Mr. Clancy, Mr. O'Shee, Captain Donelan, and Mr. Halpin; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. MacVeagh, Mr. Power, Mr. Murnaghan, Mr. Swift MacNeill, and Mr. Hugh Law.

Report to lie upon the Table.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection, That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following fifteen Members, in respect of the Bills of Exchange Act (1882) Amendment Bill: Mr. Attorney-General, Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, Sir Arthur Bignold, Mr. Holden, Mr. Hambro, Mr. Napier, Mr. Pearson, Mr. Godfrey Baring, Sir George Kekewich, Sir Frederick Banbury, Mr. Walker, Mr.

Waldron, Mr. John Philipps, Sir Thomas Glen Coats, and Mr. Nicholls.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL.

Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

Ordered, That the Report do lie upon Table, and be printed. [No. 216.]

Ordered, That the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee be printed. [No. 216.]

Ordered, That the Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), be taken into consideration upon Monday next, and be printed. [Bill 272.]

NEW BILL.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION BILL.

"To amend The Infant Life Protection Act, 1897," presented by Mr. Staveley Hill; supported by Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Arthur Lee, Mr. Claude Hay, Mr. Walrond, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Mr. Hills, and Mr. Nicholls; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, July 3rd, and to be printed. [Bill 274.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (IRELAND) ACT (1898) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend The Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, with respect to bridges," presented by Mr. Patrick O'Brien; supported by Mr. O'Mara and Mr. Meagher; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 275.]

CANALS BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Canals," presented by Mr. Barran; supported by Mr. Channing, Mr. Parkes, Mr. Cross, Mr. Field, Mr. Steadman, Mr. Ridsdale, Mr. Clement Edwards, Mr. Wiles, Mr. William Lever, Mr. Brunner, and Mr. Mond; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, July 10th, and to be printed. [Bill 276.]

MONASTIC AND CONVENTUAL INSTITUTIONS BILL.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) moved for leave to introduce a Bill to appoint Commissioners to inquire as to the growth in numbers of conventual and monastic institutions in Great Britain and Ireland; and whether any further regulations of such institutions are required. He said that these institutions had increased in England and Wales from fifty-two in 1850 to 1,057 in 1905, while in Ireland there were 592 such places, and sixty-two in Scotland. At present there was no regulation and no inspection of these institutions. They were a law unto themselves. England was, he believed, the only country in which such a condition of things existed. The result of the action of foreign Governments had been an immense influx of expelled orders into this country during the last twelve or eighteen months, and if His Majesty's Government would but grant the inquiry the Bill proposed, the figures would be found startling. He believed he was not overstating the case when he said that there were tens of thousands of men and women within the walls of these institutions who had no appeal to, and no protection from, the common law of the State. [AN HON. MEMBER: "Bosh!"] He was not sure that "Bosh!" was a Parliamentary expression, but if the hon. Member who used it doubted the truth of the statement just made, let him agree to an inquiry. The granting of unchecked and unbridled power to the heads of these institutions meant, at all events, the possibility of tyranny and cruelty.

*THE SPEAKER reminded the hon. Member that he had exceeded the limit of time usually accorded to Motions of this character.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: Then, Sir, I will only formally move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill, to appoint Commissioners to inquire as to the growth in numbers of Conventual and Monastic Institutions in Great Britain and Ireland; and whether any further regulations of such Institutions are required."—(*Mr. T. L. Corbett.*)

MR. T. P. CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) submitted that the conduct of the hon. Member was an abuse of the rules of the House.

MR. T. L. CORBETT asked whether the hon. Member was in order in charging him with having abused the rules of the House.

*MR. SPEAKER said the frequent repetition of the use of this form would have a tendency to become an abuse, but, so long as the rule was only put into force occasionally, he could not say it was an abuse of the forms of the House. There had not been an instance of this kind for some little time, and therefore he could not consider that the action of the hon. Member was an abuse. But if it were frequently put into practice, he should have to say that the hon. Member for the Scotland Division was right in the terms he had used.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: Does the hon. Member withdraw the expression?

*MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing to withdraw.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): Except the Bill.

MR. O'CONNOR said the Nationalists had listened to a speech which was in some respects an attack on that which they held most dear. Two sets of figures sufficiently indicated to the House the reason of this proposal. This was the 26th June, and it had been announced by the Government that the Session would come to an end about the 4th August. The hon. Gentleman must therefore be perfectly aware that there was not the smallest chance of his Bill becoming law this session. Therefore the hon. Gentleman did not bring in his Bill with any hope of its passing into law. He would tell the House why the hon. Gentleman brought in this Bill. It was now exactly seventeen days from the 12th July. For the benefit of English Members he might say that on the 12th July, 1690, there was fought the Battle of the Boyne. The liberties that were then supposed to be assailed had already been gained, and the hatred that was then established had been removed; therefore there was no reason why any tolerant or fair-minded man should seek by such commemorations as the hon. Gentleman would take part in to revive the sad and unhappy memories of dead conflicts and what ought to be dead religious controversies. The hon. Gentleman had brought in this Bill in preparation for the 12th July. In Ireland there was going on a movement which every honest man, Protestant or Catholic, ought to help, and which every decent Catholic and Protestant in Ireland did help, namely, the closing of the era of religious conflict, religious hatred, and religious passion, through which seas of human blood had been shed in Ireland, and the dawn of a placid epoch. There was, however, still left a gang in Ireland, some of them Irish and some of them not, some of them sincere with the fanaticism of bigotry, some of them sincere with the exploitation of politics, who were determined to bring these embers into flame again, and once more to divide Catholic and Protestant. The hon. Gentleman was one of that gang. He much mistook the temper of this House if it did not ignominiously reject this ignoble attempt to revive the embers of dying bigotry.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 72; Noes, 231. (Division List No. 151.)

AYES.

Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beck, A. Cecil
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brigg, John
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Chamberlain, RtHon.J.(Birm.
Channing, Francis Allston
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Cochrane, Hon.Thos.H. A. E.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,EGrinst'd
Craig, CaptainJames(Down,E.)
Crossley, William J.
Davies, David(MontgomeryCo.
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Everett, R. Lacey
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helmsley, Viscount
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Illingworth, Percy H.
Kennaway,Rt.Hon. SirJohnH.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Liddell, Henry
Lynch, H. B.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Mansfield, H.Rendal(Lincoln)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Massie, J.
Middlemore JohnThrogmorton
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morpeth, Viscount

Napier, T. B.
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield)
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parkes, Ebenezer
Perks, Robert William
Renton, Major Leslie
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robinson, S.
Saunderson, Rt Hn Col.Edw.J.
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Smith, AbelH.(Hertford,East)
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool,Walton)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. T. L. Corbett and Mr. Sloan.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Ambrose, Robert
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, JosephA.(Finsbury,E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey(IsleofWight)
Barker, John
Barlow, JohnEmmott(Somers't
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Benn,JohnWilliams(Devonp'rt
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, ArthurW.(Bedfordshire
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J.A.(Inverness Burghs)
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt.Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clancy, John Joseph
Coats, SirT.Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Crombie, James William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne,MajorEMartin(Walsall)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Essex, R. W.
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, Jams Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt.Hon. Sir Henry
Fullerton, Hugh
Ginnell, L.
Glover, Thomas
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, JM.(Aberdeen,W.)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor(Mon.,S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hope, John Deans(Fife, West)
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
King, AlfredJohn(Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Lea, HughCecil(St.Pancras,E.)
Leese,SirJosephF(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex,Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah(Down,S.)
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Mond, A.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, CharlesN(Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, RobertJohn(Norfolk,E.)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Reddy, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Robertson, RtHn.E.(Dundee)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd

Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H.(Ashton under Lyne
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F.(Leitrim,S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Tennant, SirEdward(Salisbury
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Ure, Alexander
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke-uponTrent
Wardle, George J.
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George(York,W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Hon. C.H.W.(Hull,W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton
Woodhouse, SirJT(Huddersf'd
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Captain Donelan.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 4 :—

Amendment proposed—

"In page 2, line 39, to leave out the word 'may' and insert the word 'shall.'"—(*Mr. Evelyn Cecil.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'may' stand part of the Clause."

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.) said that the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition, in the course of his speech before the adjournment on the previous day, had commented upon what he considered the slender degree of support that the Government Amendments had received. The right hon. Gentleman a little under-rated and under-estimated the value of the support that they did receive and ignored the amount they could have received had their supporters thought fit to prolong the discussion by expressing one after the other their general agreement. He was, however, perfectly willing to acknowledge that the Parliamentary history of Clause 4, whether in its original form or as amended, and also its history in the country, afforded slender encouragement to a Minister to labour to secure concessions and to establish exceptions from the general principle of a Bill which received the united and enthusiastic support of a great Parliamentary majority, in that respect at all events compact, eager, and united. Everybody had been telling him almost every day during the last three months:—"Why do you not stick to Clause 1—plain, intelligible, in accordance with the views of the country on your side, what the country expects?" "What," they said, "do you expect to get from those for whose benefit this clause is designed? You are quenching, to some extent, our enthusiasm; you will get nothing but cold words; indeed, you will be luckly if you escape a certain amount of abuse from the people whose interests you have laboured to the best of your ability to serve." That had been said to him again and again, and he always recognised its entire truth, and it was not necessary for him to wait for the debate of yesterday or to anticipate the discussion of to-day to know the reception which this clause was almost bound to receive. He was very glad, notwithstanding the coldness of the reception of this clause, that the Government, with one accord and without any difference of opinion whatsoever, adhered to it, stuck to it, and treated it as a just though highly exceptional clause. He did not complain of hon. Gentlemen opposite because they did not receive this clause with gratitude or enthusiasm. Why should they? They took the denominational line; they said they would like all the schools to be denominational; they would put not only Rome but Lambeth on the rates, Lord Halifax on the rates, and Lady Wimborne and Dr. Clifford on the rates. Baptists, Wesleyans, Quakers, everybody should be upon the rates, and therefore it was not unnatural that they looked askance upon a clause which he agreed did not by any means secure them the complete enjoyment of rate-aid for all their schools. How many it would secure nobody could tell, because that depended upon the four-fifths calculation which still remained to be taken. It did undoubtedly secure the Roman Catholics and the Jews—the Jews, he thought, of all their schools and the Roman Catholics of a very considerable number; while to the Anglicans there could be no doubt whatsoever that this clause, as it stood originally and as now amended, would give a considerable amount of denominational support and secure them rate-aid for denominational schools. About that there could be no doubt whatsoever. On the question of "may" or "shall," those who were in charge of the Bill had to consider how it would work supposing the Amendment were carried. "Shall" by itself would, in the first instance, put a statutory obligation on the local authority to adopt a particular course of action, and non-fulfilment would bring them before the Court of King's Bench. Now, what would the Court of King's Bench have to do in order to consider the question, aye or no, whether it should issue its *mandamus* or not? The Court would require to have presented to it a clear-cut issue of a refusal by a local authority to discharge a plain and simple statutory duty. The Court would have to consider, in the first place, whether the conditions of Clause 4 had been scrupulously and properly fulfilled. It would have to ascertain whether the wishes of four-fifths of the parents had been ascertained by ballot. It would have to consider, also, what was the state of school accommodation in the area in order to satisfy itself whether or not there was sufficient and suitable accommodation for the children whose parents did not desire those facilities. These were not legal questions, they were not questions which the Court had the means of ascertaining, nor had it in any way the machinery to enable it to determine such questions. And before it could issue its *mandamus* it would have to settle or see settled the arrangement between the local authority and the owners of the school of which the extended facilities were one of the terms and conditions. It could not take it upon itself. It would have to say to the local authority, "You must come to some agreement with these people to give them extended facilities." No *mandamus* would issue in the first instance at all, because the Court had not the means of making the authority and the school come to their agreement relating to the circumstances of the facilities, how they were to be granted, on what terms and conditions, and how the school was to be taken over, subject to those conditions. In other words, the Court could not grant specific performance of an agreement containing a great number of arrangements and conditions unless that agreement had been come to. So far from the Amendment facilitating the end in view, it would render the grant of a *mandamus* practically impossible, because they never would be able to present before the Court a clear-cut issue as to the particular statutory duty which the local authority had failed to perform. On the other hand, under the proposals of the Government—and they had carefully thought them out—they had arrived at the conclusion that in order to make the clause workable in as many cases as possible the appeal to the Board of Education was by far the better and more suitable way in the interests of all parties concerned. The Board of Education was an administrative educational body, and it already knew the circumstances of the case, so far, at all events, as the school accommodation of the area was concerned. It was in close and constant weekly touch with those authorities. It knew the men, their temper and character, the dangers that had to be avoided, and the difficulties in the way. It also had its army of inspectors, well acquainted with the *personnel* of the localities. The Government by the Amendment enabled the Board of Education, in the event of no agreement being come to, in the first instance to determine what that agreement should be in all its details, and among them the condition for extended facilities. They therefore had created—what the Amendment did not do—a machinery which enabled an arrangement to be made between the authority and the school, which arrangement could be in all its terms and details forced on the local education authority, if need be, by *mandamus*. Nothing would be more likely to make this clause a sham than if they were to substitute the language of the Amendment for that of the Government. He therefore asked the

Committee most carefully to consider whether the interposition of the Board of Education as the great administrative body already connected by very close ties with the local authorities of the country was not far more likely to effect a peaceful settlement of disputes, and bring about a binding, complete and clear-cut arrangement. He contended that the Government plan was a fair and reasonable and practical plan, and would give effect to the clause in the best possible way, whereas the Amendment before the Committee would entirely fail to carry out the wishes and desires of hon. Gentlemen on both sides of the Committee, who, he thought, had given it somewhat hasty support. It had been said by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for St. George's, Hanover Square, that the mere fact that the Board of Education would have an alternative, that it did not allow itself in special circumstances, if so minded, to substitute for the *mandamus* this standing out of a school, took the whole sting out of the *mandamus* altogether. The right hon. Gentleman trotted out the saying about the line of least resistance which seemed now to be the Alpha and the Omega of modern statesmanship. He understood that that was applicable to all Parties and to all purposes. The right hon. Gentleman said that the statesman or the politician, if he could pursue the line of least resistance, if he had to find a way out of a difficulty, if he could go round any dark corner, would do it rather than exercise the powers the law had conferred upon him. All he could say was that the bias of the Board of Education—whoever was in the position of its President or permanent Secretary—would always be against resorting to allowing a school to stand out in any form or shape if they could by any possibility avoid it. The Board of Education would always regard with intense dislike and ill-concealed hatred anything which would remove from the national system—from the national obligation of support, both in the form of Parliamentary grants and rates, any school in the country where children received their education. Therefore, if the idea was that the Board of Education would be astute or eager to avoid its statutory power to resort to a *mandamus*, and instead of that to seek to force a school to go out and suffer all the evil consequences that flowed from standing out, it was, he was sure, an abuse of imagination. It would be the exact opposite. The Board of Education would strive its utmost and see to it that no local authority, even if it was so disposed—a thing which he did not like even to contemplate—should disobey or defy the law as defined by Parliament. The one desire of the Board of Education would be to force it to obey the law, and it would be only in special circumstances that they would resort, and that with extreme reluctance and unwillingness, to this other alternative, which was inserted only out of abundant caution, in the passionate hope and desire that, whatever happened, even in the remotest parts of the country, as little damage as possible should be done to these particular schools under this clause. The Amendment he would propose said that—

> "if under any special circumstances of the case the Board think it expedient they may instead of making such an arrangement make an order allowing the school to continue as a State-aided school."

In those special circumstances would, of course, be included the pecuniary circumstances of the school, its income, its endowments, its capacity for obtaining subscriptions enabling it to fill the disagreeable gap between the money which it received from Parliament and the money which was necessary in order to keep it on a good and sufficient scale. These would be among the special circumstances which were contemplated, which the clause intended should be contemplated, by this particular language. Therefore, in the case of a school where it was obvious that if it was driven to stand out it would be in a parlous case owing to its poverty, to its locality, or to other circumstances, then, indeed, that would be additional reason which would urge, almost compel, the Board of Education to rely on its statutory powers. He did really put it to the Committee quite frankly and seriously that they were under a mistake if they believed that the simple deletion of the word "may" and the substitution for it of the word "shall," would get them out of the difficulties which they imagined were before these schools. The machinery of the Government, elaborate as it was, had been devised and carefully thought out for no other purpose whatever than that of making these facilities as real as they possibly could be and of securing to the Board of Education the power of giving effect to them. He, therefore, did think from that point of view, that the Committee ought soon to be in a position to make up its mind, and he besought hon. Members who sat behind the Government to give this matter their careful consideration and to come to the conclusion that the scheme of the Government was more likely to make the clause what it was intended to be than the alternative of substituting one word for another.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said the right hon. Gentleman at the commencement of his speech spoke more than once of the cold reception which Clause 4 had received from those in whose interest it was proposed, and he spoke not only of cold words being addressed to him but of abuse.

MR. BIRRELL : Not in this House.

MR. JOHN REDMOND thought he could only say on behalf of those for whom he spoke that the right hon. Gentleman had received no abuse from them. They had no complaint to make to the right hon. Gentleman except that they believed that he was not able to carry out in practice the views which they believed he held. The right hon. Gentleman had more than once declared himself as a friend of denominational teaching in the schools, and their sole complaint was that he had not been able in the clause before them to give what they believed to be adequate effect to the views he held. The course the discussion had taken and the development of the new Government proposals had caused him and his colleagues most acute pain and misgiving. They had arrived at what was for them the kernel of the whole situation. Clause 4 was to be their charter. It depended on Clause 4 whether this Bill was to be tolerable for the Catholic schools, and whether the religious convictions of the parents who sent their children to these schools would be safeguarded, or whether, on the other hand that clause was to be regarded by them as an instrument of injustice and of religious tyranny in the hands of a dominant majority. Personally he had from the first been filled with the belief and hope that Clause 4 would be so altered as to fulfil the object for which it had been introduced. Notwithstanding all that had happened he did not yet abandon the hope which he had entertained, because of the necessities of the case. The right hon. Gentleman said this was an undenominational Bill. In one sense that might be true. But let it never be forgotten that the House, by an overwhelming majority, had declared against secular education and had decided in favour of giving religious education in the schools. If religious education was to be given, then manifestly and necessarily if the Bill was not to become an instrument of religious tyranny they must take care that the religious education which was given was not such as to be abhorrent to the religious convictions of the children and their parents. The House had decided that the religious teaching in normal schools was to be what was known as Cowper-Templeism, and he desired again to emphasise the position he took up on the Second Reading of the Bill, that Cowper-Temple teaching presented itself to Catholics in an entirely different way from the way it presented itself to Protestants of any section. He would not repeat the mistake of saying that it was satisfactory to all Protestants, but he would say that that system, if it was not agreeable and satisfactory to all sections of Protestants, was not offensive to the religious convictions of any section of Protestants. Catholics stood in an entirely different position. They regarded that kind of religious teaching as the teaching of Protestantism. They might be quite wrong, but it was not a question of whether they were right or wrong. It was a question of whether they believed it or not, and if they believed that this system of teaching was in reality Protestantism, and therefore hostile to their religion, then they said, and he said, that the House having decided that they would not have secular education, that they would have religious education, and that the normal religious education should be Cowper-Templeism, which was offensive to Catholics, they were bound, if they did not wish to turn the Bill into an engine of religious tyranny to Catholics, to provide that in the Catholic schools the religion taught should be such as would be consonant with the religious convictions and opinions of Catholics. He recognised most fully that this clause was intended to meet their case. He did not impugn the motive of the right hon. Gentleman in the least. He believed this clause was honestly intended to meet their case, and he confessed that he could not believe under these circumstances that either the Government or the House would attempt to palm off upon Catholics a clause which manifestly was insufficient for the purpose for which it was intended. For this belief they had good authority. He did not think the debate on this clause ought to be allowed to conclude without again having quoted to the House the words of the Minister for Education when addressing the Jews. These words had been quoted again and again, but now was the time to quote them, for this was the clause to which they were specially applicable and upon which they were entitled to call them in evidence. The right hon. Gentleman pledged himself in that famous speech that he would not allow Clause 4 to be illusory or a fraud, and that, he was sure, was the intention of the majority behind him. His business was to impress upon the Government and their supporters, if he could, the belief which he entertained, and which he was sure they would admit he honestly entertained, that the clause, if it was not changed in certain particulars, would be illusory and a fraud. The right hon. Gentleman had deprecated leaving any foothold for pig-headed obstinacy on the part of any local authority. He said it was the intention of the framers of the Bill that it should be obligatory on the local authority to provide facilities if four-fifths of the parents desired them. He then went on to say that the teachers should remain the same as they were—those who alone were qualified to give the particular religious instruction which hitherto had been given in the schools. The Nationalist Party all the more readily believed in the honest intention of the right hon. Gentleman and the Government to give effect in the Bill to these public pledges, because they were anxious if they could to support the Bill. They recognised fully that grave injustice was done, in one particular at any rate, to the Nonconformists of England by the Act of 1902, and they were anxious, without the destruction of the interests of their own religion and of their schools, to join the Nonconformists in lifting the injustice off their shoulders. They did not desire to separate their schools from the general system of national education in the country. They desired their schools to be sanitary, efficient, and well-equipped schools, with efficient and well-paid teachers, and they believed that in the interests of the efficiency of their schools it would be a mistake to separate themselves from the general system of education. All that was necessary to make the fourth clause acceptable to them was that it should be made obligatory on the local authorities, so that there should be no loophole for evasion by any pig-headed bodies. They asked in addition that the voice of the parents should be heard in the selection of the teachers, and they asked for a qualification in the limits of 5,000 and four-fifths which would enable the bulk of the Roman Catholic schools to come in under the provisions of the Act. It had been said that the bulk of the Roman Catholic schools would come in under Clause 4. There were 1,040 such schools, and 501 would be excluded from all benefit under that clause by the double operation of the 5,000 limit and the four-fifths. With regard to the question of making the clause mandatory, he said they did not distrust the elected public bodies. For his part he believed there would be as much broadmindedness and toleration to be found amongst those bodies in this country as in any country in Europe. But of course there might possibly be a few who would refuse to put the clause into operation if it were left to local option. It would be a ridiculous result of all the labours and sacrifices of this Parliament in passing this great measure if any obscure and unimportant body here and there throughout the country should have the power resting in its hands to defy the decision of the House and refuse to carry out the intentions of the Act. Parliament had decided that there should be religious teachers in the schools. It had decided that in certain schools where the children were nearly all of one creed that creed should be taught. It had laid down these great provisions with fairness and justice; but would it be wise to allow the local authorities to trample on these provisions?

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.) said he did not want unduly to interrupt the hon. and learned gentleman's argument, but he asked, for his own information, if this clause was made mandatory, how did he know that the local authorities would not be recalcitrant?

MR. JOHN REDMOND said he did not know whether they would be recalcitrant or not, but the same difficulty would arise when the right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Education came to issue his mandamus. If the Bill passed in its present shape it would enable the local authorities to trample upon the great principle which had been laid down by the House. It would fan into life the fires of religious strife in every part of the country at every election, and at every local election in Great Britain. The question of the granting or the withholding of these facilities would be debated and agitated on every platform. And if the Bill was intended to be a settlement of the religious difficulty—as he believed the Government intended it to be—nothing could be more unfortunately enacted by Parliament than to make this a test question at every little election throughout the country. He took the strongest view on this question. He thought the settlement of the educational problem by the present proposals of the Government was mad and wicked, and from the point of view of this great Parliament cowardly—in this sense, that instead of the Government deciding for themselves and for the House whom they represented what was just and then enacting it and carrying it out, they were leaving it to be carried out by the decision of the local authorities, more or less irresponsible—at any rate to local authorities who were elected from time to time for other purposes. He came now to the right hon. Gentleman's alternative. The right hon. Gentleman had pointed out that if "shall" was left in the Bill there would be very great difficulty in enforcing the law. His hon. friend who interrupted him wanted to know how the law was to be enforced. The right hon. Gentleman proposed as an alternative an appeal to the Board of Education, and that the Board of Education should step in and do what would be done without its intervention if "shall" was put in the Bill. What he wanted to say was this, that if the limits of 5,000 and four-fifths were made satisfactory, if there was some provision for giving effect to the voices of the parents in the selection of the teachers, he, for one, would be quite content to accept the Bill, and that "may" should remain in the Bill instead of "shall." With regard to schools contracting themselves out of the Act, he entirely disapproved of it. The talk about contracting out was a mockery in this connection. What was the meaning of contracting out? It meant that parties voluntarily contracted themselves out of the Act. That was not what was proposed in the Bill. It meant that the Education Board might, whether the school owners liked it or not, kick them out of the Act. Contracting out, as the Government proposed it, meant the semi-starvation of these schools. He did not agree with the Minister for Education in his view that these would be rare cases. He thought himself that the temptation to save money on the rates would be so great to the local authorities—and in this he agreed with the hon. Member for North Camberwell, who would be accepted as an authority, if he himself was not, in those matters—that many local authorities who, if this proposal were not in the Bill, might perhaps grant facilities, would refuse the facilities and precipitate an appeal to the Board of Education in the hope that the appeal would result in the contracting out of the school. He believed it would after a while become the usual course with the Board of Education. It would save them infinite trouble and unknown risks, and he believed in almost every case of appeal the result would be that the school would be put outside the operation of the Act. That would be a fatal thing for the schools in whose name he spoke. It was true that there might be in some parts of England a few rich Catholic schools, bodies sufficiently endowed to be able to carry on their work if they were cut off with nothing but the Imperial grant; but taking the Catholic schools generally, he asserted that contracting out of this character—that was, taking away the rates and leaving them only the Imperial grant—would mean inefficient schools, badly paid teachers, and half starved schools, and he asked hon. Members as educationists if they were prepared to advocate such a scheme as that. It was the interest of every man in the House to take steps for the efficient education of all the children of England. It was their interest to see that the Catholic children were as highly educated as the children of any other class. It would be a fatal thing if the House adopted as a settlement of this question a scheme whereby these schools would be condemned to that state of semi-starvation in which unfortunately a good many of them were before 1902.

MR. WALLACE (Perth): Would the hon. Member object to the contracting out clause if the grants given were sufficient for the purpose of carrying on the schools?

MR. JOHN REDMOND said that was an entirely different proposition from any that had been made, and he certainly would be very slow indeed to say he would reject any such settlement. All that he and his friends wanted was this. They wanted on the one hand that there should be sufficient provision for these schools to enable them to be efficient and on the other hand they wanted a provision which would enable them to have religious teaching in their schools as satisfactory to them as the Protestant religious teaching was to the children in the Protestant schools. If a proposal such as the hon. and learned Gentleman had mentioned were put forward he admitted it would not be open to many of the objections he had been urging to the present proposal. They were not afraid in the schools of their people being induced to ask for facilities when they did not want them. On the question of rent he would not dwell, because he believed when the question came to be carefully thought out it would be borne in on the mind of hon. Gentlemen opposite that it was a shabby and mean proposal, and that its effect would be to hit that very class of school to whom the money was of most importance—that was, the schools of the very poorest of the poor. With regard to contracting out, one of the great cries of the Nonconformists in this controversy, in the country at any rate, had been the objection, the natural objection, which they entertained to pay money for the teaching of a religion with which they did not agree. He was informed by those who were in authority and knew the facts that if the rates and taxes paid for educational purposes by the Catholics of Great Britain were pooled to-morrow they would provide a fund sufficient to maintain all the Catholic schools in the country. For how many years did the Catholics go on paying for the schools of England in which they had no share, while providing their own schools—paying school taxes for the maintenance of the Board schools? And they raised no objection. Now the Government were proposing to revive that system and to say to these poor Catholic schools, "You must maintain your own schools, you must pay for your own Catholic teaching, and in addition to that you must pay rates for the teaching of Protestantism in Protestant schools." He submitted to the Committee that that was not a fair proposal, that it was not one which would commend itself to the judgment of hon. Members. To speak of such a result as that being in the nature of a settlement of the religious question seemed to him to be an absurdity. He did not believe that such a scheme would ever pass into law, and if it did pass into law it would be the opening of a new chapter of sectarian hatred and differences in England. If this proposal was carried the inevitable result would be that before long they would find religion of all kinds driven out of all the schools. That solution commended itself to many men in the House, but he did not believe it commended itself to the majority in the House or in the country. There were only two possible solutions. One was the secular solution; the other was allowing the creeds to have their own religion to themselves in the schools. If by this Bill they destroyed the second alternative he was convinced they would have religion of all kinds driven from the schools. Surely there must be some way out of the difficulty. There was no inherent cause of hostility between English Nonconformists and Irish Catholics, and surely it was not beyond the possibility of statesmanship to devise some plan whereby the Catholics might be able, without interference with the great national system of education, a system suitable to the wants and conformable to the interests and wishes and convictions of a great Protestant country, to continue (and that was all they asked) to teach their own religion to their own children in their own schools built by the hard-earned money of their people.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N.W.) said that although he could not claim the indulgence of the Committee as a new Member, he could do so upon this question, as this was the first time that he had ventured to enter upon this great theological controversy. Personally he agreed with what had fallen from the front Opposition Bench and from the last speaker. He believed that secular education, or alternatively non-denominationalism, were the only true solutions of the difficulty. He regarded the measure, and he was sure his hon. friends on that side of the House would agree with him, as an honest attempt at compromise upon a most difficult subject. What had amazed him, therefore, throughout these prolonged debates had been the tone of the criticism, not only on the Opposition but on the Ministerial side of the House with regard to it. That criticism entirely ignored the fundamental principle of the Bill, viz., that it was brought forward to satisfy the three great faiths existing in this country, viz., the Nonconformist, the Anglican, and the Catholic. He was sure that the Leader of the Nationalist Party must recognise that this Bill was as liberal a concession to the interests of the Catholic schools in this country as could be expected from a Protestant nation. It said that Roman Catholics should have separate teaching of their doctrines by separate teachers. [Cries of "May."] Well, he entirely agreed with the argument which had been advanced that "may" in this case was better than "shall." For all practical purposes they were conceding to the Catholics of England as large and as liberal measure of religious teaching as could possibly be expected at the hands of a Protestant Government. If his hon. friend would cast his eye over to the United States, that great country of religious freedom, he would find no concession was given.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said there was no religious teaching there.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES said that was hardly correct; there was Bible teaching, sometimes combined with definite religious teaching. It was true that the 5,000 and the four-fifths were both arbitrary figures, but at the same time common sense told them that that was the only way to deal with the situation. He would like to see distinct and definite treatment meted out to the Roman Catholics, because he recognised that with the Roman Catholics it was a question not only of the teaching to be given, but of the teacher who was to give it, and that being so he regretted the want of courage of the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education in not conceding to the Roman Catholics distinct and definite treatment. So far as his own faith was concerned, he ventured to say that apart from ecclesiastical laymen of the Anglican Church, and apart from an eclectic body of ecclesiastics, the great body of the Anglican laity were and would be content with a simple system of Bible teaching. He had spoken to hundreds of laymen on the subject, and the almost universal reply to his question was that the great body of the Church of England would be content with simple Bible teaching in the schools. But naturally the Church of England had a grievance. It was objectionable in many ways that the rural schools should be left out, that 100 per cent. of the children in the rural schools should not be able to obtain definite religious instruction, whilst 80 per cent. of the children in the urban schools could obtain it. But the Bill was a compromise, and if these facilities were given to the rural schools the Nonconformists would immediately have a grievance. He admitted the grievance of the Nonconformists, and he submitted to the Minister for Education that the system which obtained in France might very well be adopted in this country. In France one day a week was given to definite religious instruction, and that system had, so far as he had been able to ascertain, worked most satisfactorily and harmoniously. But he ventured to suggest to his brethren in the Church that in this matter there was no other way of dealing with the question. He regretted that 100 per cent. of the children in rural schools could not get any definite religion, but everyone would admit that there must be a *modus vivendi.* The Nonconformists had given way in this matter; they also were parties to the compromise, and he was not sure that they had not given just as much as the Roman Catholics. It was with them a matter of conscience that they should not pay anything towards a State religion in education or in any other way. But they were now willing to waive that, and all they asked for in return was that in those areas where there was no alternative school they might have education unfettered by any religious teaching with which they were not in accord, and which was contrary to the fundamental principles of their faith.

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness): Does Dr. Clifford accept Clause 4 ?

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES said whether Dr. Clifford accepted Clause 4 or not had, in his view, very little to do with the matter. But those Nonconformists who sat in this House were, he believed, quite content to accept it. [Laughter.] Hon. Members laughed, but surely no one would suggest that Clause 4 would be a permanent or final solution of this great religious controversy. No one would suggest that this controversy could be settled by one Act. The clause was but a step in that direction, but he regarded it as a very great step. He thought there was a great deal of false dialectical force imported into the discussion of whether "may" or "shall" should be incorporated in the clause. If they put in the word "shall" they exposed the local authorities to the risk of being shot at by the Anglicans upon the ground that there was sufficient school accommodation for the Nonconformists, and they exposed them to the same risk at the hands of Nonconformists on the ground that there was not sufficient accommodation. Whereas if they put in the word "may" they did not expose them to that risk. He could not imagine anything worse for the discharge of their duty by the local authorities than that they should be exposed to litigation which might not be very effective, but which, if it were not, would harass and hamper local authorities. But with the word "may" that could not be. If the word "may" was inserted, it would go a long way to discourage attempts upon the part of small bodies of Anglicans to disturb the arrangement which had worked very well hitherto. He did not know whether he had made it quite clear, but what he wished to convey was that if when four-fifths of the parents demanded it, the local authority was compelled to give special facilities, obviously the Anglican section would strive their utmost to whip up sufficient numbers to compel the local authority to give the facilities; but if the words were "may grant" and they were doubtful whether the local authorities would grant the facilities, they would not be so anxious to whip up the parents. The proposal of the Government was an honest attempt to meet the difficulty, and if it was worked in the spirit in which local authorities usually endeavoured to carry out the public duties which devolved upon them, he did not think those who were so anxious to maintain voluntary schools would have any reason to complain of this measure.

*MR. F. E. SMITH (Liverpool, Walton) said he had listened to every speech on this Amendment from the Ministerial Benches, and from the beginning of the discussion to the present moment not a single argument had been brought forward against it, except the allegation of the Minister for Education that there was some technical difficulty in applying for a mandamus. In the course of his professional career he had had considerable experience in regard to the process of mandamus against local authorities and others, and he would like the Minister for Education or the Under-Secretary to be good enough to explain a little more clearly to those whose professional duty it was to try to understand the rules which regulated the granting of a mandamus, how it was that the Government could not adopt this Amendment and which particular difficulty was alleged to be so formidable. He had taken the trouble to cut out the eulogy which the right hon. Gentleman passed last night upon mandamus as a means of coercing local authorities. He said—

> "Assuming that the Board supported the appellants and thought it was reasonable that the school should be taken over on the terms of extended facilities being given, it was more unlikely that any local authority would refuse to be guided by the Board of Education. If, however, they still held out, there was a *mandamus*. He confessed he would not allow himself to contemplate the possibility of a local education authority anywhere refusing to obey an order of the King's Bench. Was there any county in England or Wales where the King's writs did not run? Certainly not. Therefore the *mandamus* was a most powerful engine whereby to effect the purpose they had in view."

He challenged any lawyer to explain one single respect in which the principles that would regulate the granting or witholding of a mandamus differed in the circumstances contemplated by the Minister for Education from those involved in the Amendment of his hon. friend.

Mr. HERBERT (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe): The late Colonial Secretary said mandamus would be perfectly useless because there were many Nonconformists and others who were still ready to go to prison.

*Mr. F. E. SMITH said he was not thinking of the infinite discussion as to whether there were in this country Nonconformists who would not obey a mandamus, and Heaven forbid that he should embark upon that discussion. The point was a purely technical one as to whether the right hon. Gentleman was right when he came down to the House and said he could not accept this Amendment, not because it was not just, or because it would not meet a grievance which was admitted by the hon. Member for North West Durham to be genuine, but because of some supposed technical difficulty in granting this mandamus or in making it effective when granted.

*The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY to the BOARD of EDUCATION (Mr. Lough, Islington, W.): His right hon. friend desires mandamus to be the last resort.

Mr. F. E. SMITH said the Parliamentary Secretary's admirers, of whom he was one regretted that he did not do himself more justice in these interventions. Did the hon. Member imagine he desired it as a first resort? If the local education authority would do what the Government meant it to do, there would be no necessity for mandamus. If on the other hand the local authority would not exercise those powers which had been placed in their hands either to exercise or refuse, then they would take the mandamus as the last remedy. Surely the time had come when these pitiful evasions and contradictions should be abandoned? On Clause 4 they could not expect to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds. The right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Education on this point had received nothing but insults from those outside the House and from those hon. Members of his own Party who sat below the gangway. He did not know whether hon. Gentlemen on the Ministerial side had read some of the statements made at a very striking meeting of Radicals which met to consider Clause 4. This was what was said by the right hon. Gentleman's own friends. Dr. Clifford said that Clause 4 was fatal to a final settlement. Such was the effect produced by the Bill upon those who had most assiduously laboured upon the platform in the interests of the Government. Dr. Leach said the Amendments made the clause worse. The Rev. Hurst Hollowell said that—

> "The Amendments touched the depth of folly, and the clause staggered under the accumulations of its own absurdity."

He went on to say—

> "Reconsider the whole position. Produce a better Bill. The clause is an outrage."

That would appeal to the Parliamentary Secretary. Lord Stanley of Alderley was certainly not a biassed or hostile critic; but he said that—

> "the Government Amendments had been flung at the Paper without any consideration at all, and justice could not be done in the limited time to this immense new problem that was presented."

They sympathised with the Minister for Education in being exposed to these very injurious observations, because it involved the pathetic inference that there was no reward even for drinking the cup of humiliation to its dregs. Surely the time had come when the right hon. Gentleman should cast aside for a moment the rôle of Issachar so far as this Bill was concerned. They were all agreed as to the objects they wanted to secure. They wanted to see that the schools should continue in the future as to-day. The Minister for Education had told them that it was his desire that these schools should go on in the future as they had done in the past. He supposed they were all agreed about that. [Cries of "No."] He thought that was the one point upon which they agreed with the Minister for Education, who told the Jewish deputation that he desired to see their schools go on in the future as in the past. Therefore, it was immaterial what hon. Members below the gangway wanted because they were not the Government. They did not intend to vote against the Government and they were therefore negligible. Apparently they could not speak for themselves, so that the Minister must be assumed to speak for them. The right hon. Gentleman desired equally with themselves to see denominational teaching preserved in the schools. If he was honest, he desired equally with themselves to see a denominational atmosphere preserved by the agency of tests for teachers. The right hon. Gentleman desired to see all these things; therefore it was for the Committee to consider whether they would be best secured by the plain simple Amendment of his hon. friend, or by the illogical labyrinth of Amendments which they did not understand, and which had been put forward as an alternative proposal. He wished to make one more observation. He knew as far as religious subjects were concerned some of them who represented Liverpool seats were considered to hold remarkable views. He expressed no opinion on any side of the religion question which had convulsed Liverpool opinion so long and bitterly, but he would say that any proposal which would make it necessary for candidates to state at municipal elections whether they would vote for special facilities to Roman Catholics or Protestants was calamitous and reactionary. He entreated the Government to accept the Amendment. It was one which would improve the Bill; but on the other hand, if they refused it, while it might not only shatter the Bill, but have the more serious effect of shattering the Government, still they might say of the right hon. Gentleman *Impavidum ferient ruinæ.*

*MR. ADKINS (Lancashire, Middleton) said that they had just heard a speech decorated with many irrelevant epithets, and he did not intend to follow the hon. Member in so grave a controversy by such methods—methods which were more proper to a debating society than to the House of Commons. He would only suggest that during his next evening of leisure the hon. Gentleman should devote himself to a still wider research into ecclesiastical rhetoric, and he would find gems among the utterances of members of his own Party equal to any of those he had given to the country. There were not a few Members who desired to approach this great political question in a somewhat humbler spirit, and with some regard for practical difficulties. He wished to take that opportunity of thanking the Government for the alterations they had made with regard to Clause 4. He believed most thoroughly that they were improvements, and that taken altogether they did advance a very considerable step towards that solution which he trusted all Members desired, although, of course, it was difficult in such a question to approach the matter from all points of view. There was a certain reason for retaining "may" as against "shall," entirely independent of those considerations which had taken up most of the time of the Committee, The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover had arranged with great skill the methods of restriction which were provided in the clause, and made the rhetorical point, of why should there not be one final restriction which should turn "may" into "shall." It was obvious that all those restrictions already placed in the clause—restrictions with regard to the number of parents asking, with regard to the ballot—which in passing he might say was absolutely essential if this was to be a true exponent of real local feeling—all those restrictions were of a general kind which might properly apply to all parts of the country. But besides those matters there were in many districts, and there might in every district arise, considerations in which the discretion of the local authority might be perfectly well exercised, without any of those evil designs which had been attributed to local authorities with such extraordinary freedom during the debate. He would give an illustration. They might very well have in a town of some size—he could very well imagine it happening in many parts of Lancashire—four or five voluntary schools, which applied for the "special facilities" under Clause 4. If it were made mandatory every one of those schools would be obliged to have them, irrespective of what was educationally best for the district. It might very well happen that it was better to give them to three schools—those which were susceptible of enlargement—than to give them to all five schools, and so incidentally perpetuate some small and inconvenient schools. And they who were supporting the Government in retaining the word "may," were really thinking much more of those practical definite difficulties than of designs against the consciences of their fellow citizens, with which they appeared to be credited. He desired also to say a word on another point. It was proposed in the Government's Amendments not as a first resort, nor as a second resort, but ultimately to give to the Board of Education a certain power which had been caricatured under the name of "contracting out." He would like to point out to the Committee that the phrase "contracting out" with all its associations was a most improper phrase to apply to this particular suggestion. He said this with diffidence, remembering what the hon. Member for North Camberwell said yesterday. He was one of those Members who on nearly every educational occasion followed his hon. friend with affectionate docility, but in this particular he seemed to have passed from his usual keen criticism of the Bill from an educational point of view and had launched his transpontine thunders against the Government, because forsooth they had put something in the Bill which recalled to him a previous fight on different issues. What was the objection to contracting out? The objection to contracting out, when that phrase was used accurately, was an objection to allowing considerable parts of the country to get outside a national system. But the defence for the proposal of the Government was shortly this, that it could not conceivably occur in or be applied to large parts of the country. It could not come about owing to the wanton wishes of misguided people in a particular district. It could only come about by the deliberate action of the Board of Education in a most difficult crisis, and if there was any institution in this country opposed to contracting out and to the evils of contracting out by its traditions and everything regarding it, it was the Board of Education. The Board of Education, with the natural desire of a great department to have proper control over national education, was the very last body of persons who would be drawn towards the evils of contracting out. But might he point this out. They had heard that day with the greatest candour and force from the hon. and learned Member for Waterford the statement —he would not say of the extreme, but of the full position of his co-religionists. Where they had a demand made—not for facilities, for that could be granted under the terms of the Bill, but for something far more than facilities, for what was practically the choice of the teacher, that, whether it was right or wrong, was *per se* inconsistent with a uniform national system. And supposing they had—Heaven grant that it might not happen often!—a particular locality and a particular denominational school, each taking the most vigorous and extreme view of what they considered their rights, then when all other resources were exhausted, he believed and he thought the Government believed, also, that the best and only ultimate safety valve was the suggestion which had been made by the Amendment to the clause. It was no more fair to label that with the name of "contracting out" and to attribute to it all the disasters and all the evils which contracting out had led to in the past, than it was to describe a safety valve as something which destroyed the motive power of an engine. The analogy was entirely forced and wrong. Therefore, in supporting most heartily as he did these Amendments of the Government, he included not only one but all of them. He would vote for "may" rather than "shall," because with the appeal to the Board of Education he was convinced that denominationalists were secured against wanton spite, whilst at the same the proper discretion was left to the localities which they must have if they were to do their duty. He would vote for it all the more readily, because of the care and skill in detail which the Government had devoted to dealing with the method of appeal and the action of the Board of Education, and he would also vote unhesitatingly—in spite of showers of telegrams and irrelevant phrase-making in all directions—for the further clause giving power to the Board of Education in the rarest cases to arrange for a State-aided school, because he believed that that safety valve was the only means by which they could extend as far as possible the national system to which, for the sake of education, far more than for anything else, they were whole-heartedly pledged.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said that Clause 4, and in a minor degree, Clauses 5 and 6, were really the only clauses with which he and his friends were seriously concerned. He knew some misunderstanding existed on the subject, but he wished hon. Members opposite would dismiss from their minds the idea that Catholic schools which did not get relief under Clause 4 could have recourse to Clause 3. He did not believe that any Catholic schools would avail themselves of Clause 3, or that Clause 3 really covered their case, and therefore unless they were relieved from the provisions of Clause 1 under this clause they would be completely shut out from all benefit under the educational system. All their hope of being able to accept this Bill as a tolerable settlement for the Catholic people had been all along based on the expectation that Clause 4 would be so amended as to bring it into harmony with the conscientious convictions and difficulties of their people—and also into harmony with the declarations of the Minister for Education himself and other members of the Government. What were those Amendments to which they had looked forward? They looked to obtain by those Amendments (1) some security that their schools would really be admitted under the clause, (2) for some modification of the restrictions, which as the clause now stood, cut out nearly exactly half of their schools from all benefit under the clause, and (3) for some security that teachers would not be forced upon their schools with the deliberate object of turning this clause into a mockery. A most remarkable speech was delivered in the course of yesterday's debate by the hon. Member for the Morley Division of Yorkshire, who was, he thought, recognised by Nonconformists opposite as one of the leaders of the extreme Nonconformist Party. The hon. Gentleman said—

> "He had always been in favour of leaving religious education in the hands of the churches and taking it out of the hands of the State. But if it were brought home to Nonconformists that Cowper-Temple teaching was opposed to the religion of Catholics and Anglicans he believed that the bulk of Nonconformists would agree with him that the only possible solution of the question was secular education. He admitted that some means would have to be taken to secure where denominational teaching was given that the teachers were friends of the denomination."

That was a very generous and remarkable statement from the hon. Gentleman. The hon. Member who had just spoken said that the hon. and learned Member for Waterford claimed that Catholics should have the appointment of all teachers in Catholic schools which obtained special facilities. That was not what the hon. Member for Waterford said. What his hon. friend asked for was that the parents of the children attending a denominational school, which *ex hypothesi* under these restrictions must be a homogeneous school composed of children of one religion only, should have some assurance of the bona-fides of the Government and of the House that they were not going to force conditions upon the Catholic schools with the deliberate object of turning the whole of the clause into a mockery. He welcomed the fact that the hon. Member for the Morley Division agreed with that, for he said that some means should be taken to secure that where denominational teaching was given the teachers should belong to the denomination. That was all they asked for in regard to that provision. That was absolutely essential, because if it were open to anybody to object to the operation of Clause 4 and to avail themselves under this provision of the right to appoint the teacher it would have the effect of turning the whole thing into a mockery, as a teacher might be appointed who would be unable to give denominational teaching. If the right hon. Gentleman was sincere in wishing to carry out the clause, he ought to make this small concession, not to give the appointment of the teachers, but something which would carry with it an indication that the House meant that the local authority should loyally carry out the intentions of the section. As to the second Amendment with regard to facilities, it was beyond all question that under the 5,000 limit 240 of the Catholic schools would go, and that under subsection (*b*) with respect to the four-fifths, 275 more would go, making over 500 schools in all. But there was another restriction which came into operation even on the remnant, and that was the necessity for the provision of accommodation in other schools for the minority of the children. That provision might act exceedingly cruelly and unjustly. He thought that in many cases it was entirely unnecessary. He was amazed when he discovered the extent to which Protestant children had availed themselves of Catholic schools. He was under the impression until about two months ago that there was no considerable proportion of Protestant children in the Catholic schools. It was a revelation to him that a minority of one-fifth would go out of the 247 Catholic schools. How did it come about that Protestant children came into these schools while in nineteen-twentieths of the cases there was ample accommodation for them in other schools? In many of these cases where children were sent to Catholic schools they deliberately passed the doors of board schools. In other cases they were sent to Catholic schools because the distance was a little less. One of the reasons was that the parents preferred the smaller classes in the Catholic schools. In many instances the parents of froward children sent them to the Catholic schools because the nuns produced better results in making them more obedient. These children came into the Catholic schools of their own free choice, and they enjoyed the hospitality of the schools, built with Catholics' own money, and Catholics had never endeavoured to make these schools the means of proselytising. Was it now to be put in the power of the parents of those children to take away the schools from Catholics and turn them into public elementary schools? That was he thought a very cruel injustice, and he hoped the Government would reconsider the question later on. In his opinion, after careful inquiry, Clause 4 in its present shape would not even give Catholics the choice of admission to half their schools. What was to become of the other half? The Minister for Education had spoken without any bitterness and in no unfair way, but it was one thing to deal with the speeches made on behalf of the Government, and another thing to deal with the clause. How could Catholics receive otherwise than coldly a clause which gave them the very inefficient protection he had endeavoured to describe? The hon. and learned Member for South Longford had dealt with this question. What did the Government propose to do with these Catholic schools? Did they really seriously propose to take 500 of the Catholic schools and offer no manner of relief whatever? Even with the contracting-out proposal, or as they described it, "the kicking-out proposal," they were to be left on the roadside to starve without the aid of rates or taxes, or the children were to be ordered to sacrifice their consciences and to go into the common schools of the country and to submit to the Protestant teaching which was to be the normal teaching in the schools. People talked about resistance! He did not want to indulge in any language of provocation, but could Nonconformists, while seeking to maintain and be faithful to the name and traditions of Liberalism, ask Catholics to submit to treatment of this kind, when they had set them an example of resisting the law when endeavouring to get a grievance remedied? He had received a letter only to-day from Halifax, where the Catholics had a very fine school on which there had been spent an enormous sum of money which had all come out of the pockets of the poor people. They had 625 children on the roll. For cheapness this school was built outside the borough boundaries of Halifax, and it was a sad thing that many of the children had to walk two miles to it, passing on the way the doors of the palatial council schools, in the building of which Catholic rates had been used. Under the proposed restrictions the Catholic school in question would be cut off from all relief under this Act because it was just outside the borough boundaries. What were they going to do with these 620 children? Would the Liberal Party of England enter into a struggle with the parents after all the sacrifices they had made, in order to drive their children into the council schools of Halifax? He said they could not, and unless they made some of the modifications asked of them the Government would find they had undertaken something which would necessitate an Amending Bill later on. Catholics had been asked to trust the local authorities, but there could be no question of trusting the local authority here. He thought the local authority of Halifax would treat the Catholic school decently if they could, but they could not do it because it was outside the scope of the clause altogether. Let them consider for a moment this question of trusting the local authorities. Had hon. Members read the speeches delivered yesterday at the meeting of Nonconformists? He dared say that most hon. Members had read the speech of Mr. Hirst Hollowell. He did not say a word against Nonconformists for believing what they did, but in the face of that speech, and the declarations of other Nonconformist leaders — declarations of war against Clause 4, declarations of men representing large bodies of opinion in the country who had shown that for their convictions they were prepared to defy the law—were Catholics to be told that they were perfectly safe in the hands of the loca authorities? They trusted the local authorities to follow their own convictions. This question would be made a primary and dominant issue in every local election, and Mr. Hirst Hollowell and Dr. Clifford would be on the stump from end to end of England denouncing Clause 4 and inviting the local communities to rise in rebellion against it. If that was so, why appeal to Catholics to trust the local authorities? A Welsh Member had appealed to them by stating that the Welsh Members wished to trust Ireland with local control. He himself did not vote for the Welsh Coercion Act. The Nationalist Members were prepared to support the proposal to set up a Council for Wales. If the Welsh Members wanted a Parliament the Nationalist Members would support them. But this was a very different matter. He would ask hon. Members opposite whether, when the Nationalist Members made a demand for Catholic education in Ireland, they would give them their support. He believed they were willing to give them the control of their own affairs, but if they would not support the claim for Catholic education in Ireland why should they expect the Catholic Members in this House to vote for measures which in his judgment would subject to disability the poor people of this country? The right hon. Gentleman had said quite truly, that what religious education meant to Catholics was not a half-hour's teaching of the catechism, but the whole tone and spirit in which the teaching in the school was conducted. That was their difficulty; and there was no concession unless the tone and spirit of the school were to be in conformity with the faith of the parents of the children. As to the alternatives presented in the Government Amendment, it was idle for him to say that the occasions would be rare when the local authorities would refuse to give these facilities, especially when they deliberately offered to the public bodies in the country a substantial money bribe to throw the Catholic schools out of the National school system. Let them imagine an election vote, on the issue of some one, say, Dr. Clifford saying that the voters could not only salve their consciences by the way they voted, but that they would be able to keep the rates in their pockets. That would be an admirable inducement to the electors. That, he thought, was a complete answer to the case for the alternative proposed by the right hon. Gentleman. So far as the speeches of the Nonconformist Members were concerned, he had very little to find fault with them, but it was their votes and their action that he found fault with. The hon. Member for North West Norfolk, who was a leading Nonconformist, said, and he agreed with him, that it would be unjust to put any penal consequences on Catholics who would send their children to Catholic schools. That was their whole case. But what were they going to do with the children of Catholics who were cut off from all benefit under the Clause? Supposing they refused to go to Protestant schools! Were they going to leave them in the streets? Supposing that the system of contracting out were to be adopted, on what principles would they calculate the grant to the Catholic schools which were thrust out of the national system. When they decided, on Clause 1, to have a form of religious teaching unacceptable and objectionable to Catholics, they put themselves under an obligation from which they could not escape to give them the opportunity of retaining in their schools the religious teaching that was acceptable to them. What Catholics said was that the religious teaching might be of a variable character. It might be Bible reading; it might be teaching with a good deal of dogma; but in their opinion it was Protestant teaching. Dr. Clifford said at a meeting in the Caxton Hall the previous day—

> "Cowper-Temple teaching was not Protestant in any theological or ecclesiastical sense, or he would oppose its being given at the State's expense. It was only civic Protestantism, which repudiated the Roman Catholic idea that the education of children should be under the control of the Church."

Accepting Dr. Clifford's definition for the sake of argument, that was just what Catholics objected to. They objected to the teaching probably more as civic Protestantism than as mere Protestantism. Were their rights as Catholics to be taken from them to teach civic Protestantism to other people's children, while the poor children of the Catholics were to be left without any assistance from the rates? Was that their idea of the fair play of Liberalism? Let Liberals be honest on this matter. If they proposed to retain Clause 4 in spite of the opposition of the Rev. Dr. Clifford and of the leaders of the extreme Nonconformist Party, let them retain it and accept all the logical consequences of its retention. Let them give to the Catholics and to the Anglicans who could not accept their simple religious Protestantism, equal fair play with themselves; and if the Catholics could not consent to pay rates in order that Cowper-Temple teaching should be taught in the schools, then the fair thing to do would be to authorise the Government to give to their poor schools, not a mere grant from the Exchequer, but a sum which they might calculate to be equal to the rates which the Catholics paid for teaching Protestantism in other schools. Religious liberty was a great thing; and he sympathised with those who fought for religious liberty in 1902. But those hon. Gentlemen were now on top, and were they going to commit the fatal mistake, because they now had the power, of not being satisfied with freeing their own shoulders from the burden of injustice? Would they not be satisfied until they had shifted that injustice on to those who were now in the minority? If they persisted in that course, they might drive this Bill through the House of Commons, but they would not settle the question and they would inflict on the Liberal Party a blow from which it would take them many long years to recover.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): I always listen to my hon. friend who has just sat down, not only with interest and admiration, but also with a certain amount of sympathy, even when he is enunciating opinions the very reverse of my own. He has in him something of a Jeremiah and something of a Cassandra, but to-day I think he has even out-Jeremiah'd and out-Cassandra'd himself in the prospect that he has disclosed of the future fate of the Catholic schools. I do not believe myself that one-tenth part of the mischief he has anticipated would ever take place under this Act. If I thought so I should not be so ardent a supporter of the clause as I am. But the hon. Member was not quite fair. He reiterated the fears that have been expressed of the tyrannical bigotry of local authorities in England, but he was full of compliments to my hon. friends behind me who are the representatives and the chosen men of those very localities where he anticipates such totally different treatment. I would venture to offer a word of advice to my hon. friend. Let him take care that he does not go further and fare worse. My hon. friend has pointed out what is very true, and what we all know, that, in his communion, what is wanted in the schools is something more than the teaching. It is the tone and spirit, the atmosphere, pervading the whole of the school from one end of the day to the other. Where will his atmosphere be when the only alternative offered from the other side of the House comes into force—the alternative of the State providing secular instruction and the indiscriminate liberty to all the sects to teach any religion they like? Where is his atmosphere, his spirit, his tone, in those circumstances? That solution is in very powerful hands; and let him make sure that, if this controversy comes to an end unfavourable to the present Bill, that will not be the fate of the schools in which he takes so keen and sincere an interest. I may be allowed personally to say that I feel almost the necessity of an apology for intervening in this discussion at all, because I have been enforcedly absent from the debates from first to last. I have nothing to apologise for in regard to that absence except that it added, to the other bitter feelings that it involved, the knowledge all the time that I was neglecting my duty as Leader of this House. But that bitterness, such as it was, was removed by the kind sympathy and consideration which I have received from the whole House. I do not intend to enter upon these detailed controversies, because it seems to me that they have been sufficiently discussed and that the Committee might very well come to a conclusion on this matter of "may" or "shall" without more delay. But I do think it right to state what appears to me to be the true position as viewed from the distance to which I have been relegated during the past two or three weeks. My right hon. friend the President of the Board of Education said to-day a very true and obvious thing, but a thing that is sometimes forgotten, when he declared that this is an undenominational Bill and therefore every advocate of denominational education cannot find it to his mind. It would be a false Bill if it were to his mind. This Bill is an undenominational Bill, setting up an undenominational system, and we must regard it in that light. And what is the genesis of this Clause 4? In this country you cannot pursue any system, undenominational or other, in so complicated and controversial a matter as education, to the extreme length. The mistake which I think some of my hon. friends have been making lately is that they have got hold of some small idea, or some comparatively small point, and they wish to shape everything to the carrying out to its ultimate conclusion, to its extreme completion, that idea or that line of action. You cannot do that in this country. Therefore it was necessary in our undenominational Bill to recognise exceptions. Our idea was that in the ordinary schools there should be taught religion in the form of the common elements of Christianity. In the simplicity of my heart I thought that at least in the Church of England that would not have been obnoxious. The common elements of Christianity with, no doubt, a flavour of Protestantism in them—is that really distasteful to the Church of England as by law established? To my amazement a prelate of that Church says that Bible teaching is dangerous unless it is accompanied by his standards. His standards! Why, his standards are based on the Bible, and not the Bible on his standards. Still, we provided in our Bill for two days' teaching of special doctrines in order to meet the special desires and requirements of the Church. But the Catholics are in a different position. They have never failed to put forward as their ideal the full control of the school from the religious point of view. Therefore, it seemed to us that an exception must be attempted which might include the Catholics and also any members or ministers or authorities of the Established Church who are more Catholic than anything else, for, if that is the conception of a school, our general scheme does not meet it. Accordingly we introduced Clause 4, and what the Committee have been discussing for the last two days is not the principle of the clause, but the mere machinery by which that principle is to be carried out. On the part of the Government I have to say that the principle and the intention of the clause is as I have described it; and to that we are firmly wedded, and do not intend to depart in any degree from it. And when I turn to the machinery of the clause, I can only say that it has been the subject of the closest and most careful consideration, and that as it stands we believe it avoids more difficulties and accomplishes more advantages than any other machinery which could be invented for the purpose. We have the appeal, the mandamus as the ultimate authority, the non-payment of rent. We have what is called contracting-out, and the ballot in order to secure that the opinion expressed by the parents of the children is genuine. And here let me refer to the difficulty which has been harassing the soul of my hon. friend the Member for East Mayo. He referred to the dreadful fate of the minority of Protestant children who have been in the habit, with the wish and will of their parents, of attending Catholic schools. I am very glad to hear of that practice, because it shows a spirit of liberality and a desire to live and act in common. But my hon. friend is afraid that when this clause comes into operation these children will be left out in the cold.

MR. DILLON: No; but that these children might take our schools from us.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: These children will continue to come in as they are coming in now; and there can be no hardship on the Catholic schools, for their parents will not want special facilities. But to return to the question of the machinery, I say that we regard it as perfectly sufficient, under the control, as it will be, of the Board of Education, for carrying out the main purposes of the clause, which is essential to the main purpose of the Bill itself. Our object is, and has been throughout, to make the Bill fair and equitable, and to do away with the grievances that we complain of. The hon. Member for Waterford expressed great sympathy with the Nonconformists on account of their grievances under the Act of 1902. But he did not mention any other way of removing those grievances than the way we propose; and it is clear that, unless this Bill is passed, they will remain unremedied. I therefore appeal to those who have strong prejudices and high ideals not to run after their ideals and prejudices too far, but to give their support to a scheme which we think will benefit education and remove grievances, and, while giving preferences and exceptions which cannot be avoided, will do justice to the desires and interests of the people at large.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): I hope the right hon. Gentleman will allow me, in the first place, to express on behalf of my friends our full appreciation of the reasons which have prevented him from being present during these debates, and from taking that part which we would otherwise desire him to take in the discussion of a measure which has excited so much public feeling. The right hon. Gentleman began his speech by threatening the hon. Member for East Mayo with a worse fate than that which it is proposed to inflict upon him should other hands than those of the Government be engaged in further dealing with the question of education. If the right hon. Gentleman had been able to be present at our debates he would have known that the feeling which this Bill has excited in the minds of members of the Church of England is not less deep and earnest than that to which the hon. Member for East Mayo has given expression. No one has suggested that this question could be settled without something in the nature of Clause 4. No settlement of the question could be complete which ignored the particular problem which Clause 4 is intended but fails to solve. You cannot deal with the education question without meeting the wishes of the denominations. I do not mean simply meeting the wishes of the Jews and the Roman Catholics. In speaking of meeting the wishes of those who approve of denominational teaching, I deliberately include the Church of England, and I say that any party who fails to recognise the depth of feeling of the Church of England upon this subject does not read aright the signs of the times. The right hon. Gentleman told us that the Cowper-Temple Clause was the common basis of all Christianity with a Protestant flavour. In other words, his view is that this House, or rather the local elected bodies in the country, are the people who are qualified to determine that which theologians and philosophers have been searching for in vain throughout the centuries, and yet which every town council is supposed to be able to understand by the mere light of natural reason. The extreme Nonconformists or those who speak for them, have repudiated the idea that Cowper-Temple teaching is their religion. They think themselves qualified to determine not only for themselves, but for all mankind; or they think the local authorities qualified, which is worse. I would rather have Dr. Clifford's opinion upon a purely theological subject than the opinion of persons who have had no instruction whatever in such matters. I thought I was paying a compliment, and I think a deserved one, to the efficiency with which eminent Nonconformist divines have pursued their theological studies. But the right hon. Gentleman's description of the very varied teaching which goes by the name of Cowper-Temple teaching, as containing all the common elements of Christianity with a Protestant flavour, is really absurd. Cowper-Temple teaching, I am told, is sometimes given in a manner which draws no distinction between Unitarianism and orthodox Christianity. The truth is that any attempt on the part of this House either to settle for the country or to delegate it to local authorities to settle what are the common elements of Christianity is altogether vain and absurd, and is wholly inconsistent with Liberal traditions and views of the relations which ought to subsist between the secular and the theological. They themselves are always talking of the propriety of leaving these questions to the denominations; yet in a spirit of airy confidence they are going to determine not merely what is to satisfy the Nonconformists, but what is to satisfy everybody else. That is a pretension as arrogant as was ever made by any church at any time in the world's history. The right hon. Gentleman bids us remember that this is a Bill framed not on denominational but on undenominational lines. In that effort it is not denied that the Government have produced a deep feeling of irritation among those who took seriously the agitation directed against the 1902 Bill, and who, if they were not passive resisters themselves, thought that the passive resisters were perfectly right. Clause 4 in any shape will unquestionably leave the grievance of persons of that class of the community wholly unrelieved. That is asserted by those who have a right to speak for the passive resisters. You therefore have with deliberate intent violated the feelings of those who were your most ardent supporters at the last election; and yet, having lost their support over Clause 4, you do not take the most ordinary precautions to make the clause satisfy those in whose interests you say, and truly say, you have endeavoured to frame it. A concession which was genuinely intended is so fenced round with precautions and conditions, you have left so many loopholes by which the Board of Education and the local authority may escape their obligation by the structure of your clause, and by the provisions which you have piled up one on top of the other, like Pelion upon Ossa and Olympus upon both, that nobody knows what is the principle crushed under this load of superfluous matter. You have so contrived it that those in whose interests you have framed it say with unanswerable force that their grievance, the burden you are putting on their conscience by the rest of your Bill, the injustice you are making them suffer by paying rates for other people's religion—all that remains unrelieved, and the only conceivable result of your Bill in its present shape is that you will leave the Church of England, the Church of Rome, the Jews—perhaps the Jews less than others—with a grievance they most bitterly feel, wholly unredressed, and you will leave those who are ranked among your best supporters with their consciences still offended. It seems to me the Government have blundered into a position which is open to almost every objection that can be urged, because their clause satisfies no conscience and pleases no party. This, at all events, is certain—and I say it with a full sense of responsibility—that if the Bill passes in its present shape, with Clause 4, even with the Government Amendments, it is inevitable that the Government measure will find ranged against it not merely the Roman Catholic feeling in the country, but an amount of feeling on the part of those belonging to the Established Church which no Government ought with a light heart to endeavour to arouse. I was amazed at one phrase of the right hon. Gentleman's.

He used words which, I think, were intended to indicate that the only opponents in the Anglican Church whom he had to fear or who were really anxious to see Clause 4 made effective were those whom he described as more Catholic than anything else. If that is the delusion under which the Government is blundering, surely no Government ever was blinder. I believe the feeling among the leaders of the Low Church Party of the Church of England, men like the Bishop of Liverpool and the Dean of Canterbury, men who are the protagonists of the Low Church section—these men are vehement in their opposition.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: It is worth while correcting the right hon. Gentleman in his recollection of what I said. I used the phrase with regard to opposition and disfavour as expressed to what I call elementary Christian doctrine.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not dispute the right hon. Gentleman's version of what he said; but I would respectfully point out that it does not substantially differ from the expression I attributed to him, because what those leaders of Protestant thought dislike among other things is this substitution of universal Cowper-Temple teaching for the present teaching given in denominational schools. Let the Government and every man who takes part in the approaching division understand that they are not merely dealing with Roman Catholics and Jews and a small section of the clergy and laity of the Established Church, but that they have against them, broadly speaking, the whole feeling of that Church, Low Church and High Church, and that the idea of proposing to the House and country a settlement which pleases neither the denominationalists nor the undenominationalists, and asking us to accept that as a final settlement of this tremendous problem is really to play with a great cause, idly to meddle with subjects which you cannot settle, to leave unredressed ancient wrongs, and to create a large body of new wrongs which must in their turn breed fresh difficulties for this House and the country.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes 340; Noes 237. (Division List No. 152).

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hon.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey(Isle of Wight)
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert(Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams(Devonp't
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H.(Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Bolton, T. D.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce,Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen)
Bryce, J.A.(Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, SirWmJ.(S.Pancras,W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,CH(Sussex,E.Grinst'd)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Davies, David(Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.

Duckworth, James
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, J.M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Palmer, Sir Charles Mark
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W. H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sutherland)
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)

Ward, W.Dudley(Southampton
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan).
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull,W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk,Mid
Wood, T. M‘Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T(Huddersf'd)
Yoxall, James Henry.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon.SirH.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hn. Guy (Winchester)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N;
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach, Hn. MichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, W. (T'w'rHamletsS.Geo.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Byles, William Pollard
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J.(Birm.
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.A(Worc.
Chance, Frederick William
Clancy, John Joseph
Cleland, J. W.
Coates, E. Feetham(Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Courthope, G. Loyd
Cox, Harold
Craik, Sir Henry
Crean, Eugene
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay(Galway)
Dillon, John
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dixon-Hartland,Sir FredDixon
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison(York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Glover, Thomas
Gordon,SirWEvans(T'rH'ml'ts
Gulland, John W.
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hammond, John
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Helmsley, Viscount
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hervey,F.WF(BuryS.Edm'ds.)
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hogan, Michael
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hudson, Walter
Jenkins, J.
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kelley, George D.
Kennaway, Rt. Hn.Sir John H.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Sir Henry Seymour(Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lee, ArthurH.(Hants,Fareham
Lockwood,Rt.Hn..Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter(Dublin,S
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down. S
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M‘Calmont, Colonel James
M‘Hugh, Patrick A.
M‘Iver,Sir Lewis(Edinburgh,W
M‘Kean, John
M‘Killop, W.
M‘Micking, Major G.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, JohnThrogmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield)
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.

O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Pollard, Dr.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hn. Lionel Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford, East)
Smith,F.E. (Liverpool,Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thos. F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thorne, William
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Wardle, George J.
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York,E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) moved an Amendment providing that the local education authority might, "subject to an appeal to the Board of Education in the event of refusal," afford extended facilities for religious instruction of a special character. He said the Government had placed an Amendment on the Paper which anticipated his proposal. The Government Amendment would allow an appeal to the Board of Education, and would also permit contracting out. He asked the President of the Board of Education whether he could not divide that Amendment into two parts, one dealing with the appeal to the Board of Education which they could all support, and the other relating to contracting out.

Amendment proposed.

"In page 2, line 39, after the word 'may,' to insert the words 'subject to an appeal to the Board of Education in event of refusal.'"—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. BIRRELL did not think it possible to divide the Amendment of the Government in the form suggested. He was afraid it would have to remain as it stood.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked whether the Government would consider the propriety of introducing into their Amendment words which would give a direction to the Board of Education to take care that such an arrangement was made between owners of schools and the local authority as would cause religious education to be carried out on the lines to which each particular school had been accustomed. That was the policy of the Government. He was sure that it was a matter worth considering. If they were fortunate enough to reach the clause the subject would be raised, but if not, perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would consider the propriety of doing what he had suggested.

MR. BIRRELL said he would consider the suggestion.

LORD R. CECIL said that under the Bill the appeal would lie with the parents if the local authority declined to act. Under the Amendment of the right hon. Gentleman, however, the appeal would lie with the owner. It appeared to him that it ought to be left to the parents to appeal and not to the owners of the school.

MR. BIRRELL thought it would be very undesirable to take away the appeal from the owners, who were a responsible set of persons who might be trusted to look after the interests of the school, whilst the parents might not be able to act with promptness. Whilst he could not alter the provision that the owners should be the appellants, this was the parents' clause, and he would consider whether words could be inserted to secure that parents should have power to appeal.

DR. MACNAMARA hoped the right hon. Gentleman would consider the suggestion he had made.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. CAVE moved an Amendment to leave out the words "in an urban area" in line 1 on page 3. He did not think that anyone would suggest that the religious instruction of the children or the wishes of the parents were of less importance in a rural than in an urban area. He knew many rural parishes which had a population quite as large as 5,000, which was put down as the minimum for an urban area under Clause 4. In many cases the school in a rural parish was placed close to the boundary of the area, and served for the children of another rural area or even for some of the children in an adjoining urban area. He saw no reason why such a school should be treated in a different way from an urban school. Just outside Halifax there was a Roman Catholic school which served the children in the urban as well as in the rural area, and yet that school was to be entirely shut out from the advantages of Clause 4. He did not see any logical basis upon which such an exemption could be based. All the arguments they had heard with regard to urban districts were equally applicable to rural areas. Perhaps the limitation would be defended on the ground that it was impossible in many rural areas to find sufficient schools to deal with all denominations. If so, the answer was that such a case was fully covered by condition (b) of this clause. No doubt that condition, if it remained as it stood in the Bill, might have the effect of excluding from the clause (if extended to rural areas) many single-school areas; but that difficulty would be met by a subsequent Amendment, by which it was proposed that it should be made a condition of giving special facilities that the owners should provide for giving to the children of dissenting denominations religious instruction of the kind the parents desired either in the school itself or in some neighbouring school. He felt sure the Committee would recognise the importance of this Amendment, and he hoped the Government would accept it.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 1, to leave out the words "in an urban area."—(*Mr. Cave.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

*MR. LOUGH agreed that there was something to be said in favour of the Amendment. He would remind the Committee, however, that the Government had made a very great concession in the clause as it now stood. The object of this Bill was to found a system of State education and here a broad exception was made. The two exceptions laid down in Sub-sections (a) and (b) were not sufficient, and they required the words of the clause as well. The ballot would be an inconvenient procedure to work in country villages, where there might be great objections to canvassing and pressure that might be brought to bear on one side or the other. There would be considerable difficulty in putting Sub-section (b) into operation in the rural areas. There might be a school two or three miles off. Would that be conceived to be accommodation? In some country areas there were wide notions as to the distance a child ought to walk. This clause had been described as one which made provision for Jews and Roman Catholics, but it should be remembered that a great number belonging to other religious sects would be able to take advantage of it. The Church of England would be able to take advantage of this clause to a larger extent than the Roman Catholics or the Jews. The Returns showed that in the urban areas as defined by the clause there were 4,371 denominational schools with an average attendance of 1,500,000 scholars, or three-fifths of all the scholars attending denominational schools in England and Wales. Many of these schools would be able to take advantage of this provision. There were in the country districts 9,700 other denominational schools, but they contained only 1,000,000 scholars. It would be admitted that a case had to be made out for the distinction drawn between urban and rural schools, and the truth was that this was part of the protection which Nonconformists received under the Bill. This was an attempt to deal with the difficulties of which the Nonconformists complained. The Government had been protecting Church of England interests in Clause 3 and Roman Catholic interests under Clause 4, but surely those of Nonconformists ought not to be entirely lost sight of. It was amongst those 9,700 rural schools that the Nonconformists had felt the intolerable strain; and surely they ought to have a look in somewhere. It would be impossible to provide the same facilities in the rural as in the urban schools, but his whole sympathy was on the side of dealing with them in the most liberal spirit with the various claims which would be made for facilities under the Bill. He believed that in the small schools in the country areas, if a fair view was taken of the construction of the Bill, they would be able to lead with their religious requirements in a satisfactory way. It should be remembered that the schools would be taken over for a small number of hours for the purposes of public elementary education. They would be taken by the public authority only for five days a week, and if it was desired to give the children additional religious instruction it could be done after school hours, and also on Saturday and Sunday when the schools would remain available for that purpose. Most fair-minded men would agree that in the one-school areas by a reasonable use of the facilities that would remain out of school hours it would be possible to make any provision necessary to meet religious requirements so far as Protestant children were concerned. As to the position of the Roman Catholics, 77 per cent. of all the Roman Catholic schools were in the urban areas with a population of over 5,000, while 91 per cent. of the Roman Catholic children were in those urban schools. The clause was conceived in a large and liberal sense, and it granted great facilities. He admitted that from the extreme denominational point of view the clause might not be altogether satisfactory, but in making that admission the Committee should bear in mind the extreme difficulty surrounding the whole question, and when they did so he was sure that they would feel it to be hard to make any improvement in the scheme which the Government had laid down. He could not see his way to accept the Amendment.

MR. ABEL SMITH (Hertfordshire, Hertford) said the question the Committee had to consider now was whether any distinction could really be drawn in regard to this matter between the urban districts and the districts which were not technically urban. He maintained that there was no logical distinction whatever between the two. The only reason which the hon. Gentleman had given as to why similar arrangements should not be provided for the rural districts as were provided by this clause for the urban districts of 5,000 inhabitants was the rustic stupidity of the children. Perhaps he had by accident, both politically and in other capacities, had a closer acquaintance with the parents of children in the rural districts than had the hon. Gentleman, and he held that they were as qualified to take a deep interest in the religious education of the children as the parents of the children to whom this clause would apply, and to form an opinion as to what that religious instruction should be. He did not altogether agree with the hon. Member for Kingston in regard to the distinction between the single-school districts and other districts, but as that question did not arise on the present Amendment he would not pursue the subject. In the division which he had the honour to represent there were very few Roman Catholics. They were a very Protestant people; but there was one small Roman Catholic community in the division which maintained a school in a rural district, and he had no doubt that that school was as efficient as the other schools in that part of the country. What logical reason was there for making a distinction between that elementary school and an elementary school in an urban district with 5,000 population, and why should not both receive the same treatment? He submitted that the Amendment ought to receive more serious consideration from the Government.

*MR. STARKEY (Nottinghamshire, Newark) said that as the representative of an agricultural constituency he wished to point out how very hard the rural districts of England would be hit by this particular clause. The only hope of the rural schools being able to continue to give religious education as at present was by having the assistance of the rates. If the four-fifths provision would satisfy the people and appease all dissensions in regard to the religious difficulty in urban districts, why should not the same principle be extended to rural districts? If the country schools did not come within the four-fifths provision how were they to provide teachers for the children? It was quite true that on two days of the week the children were to be given religious instruction, but who was to give it? Their own teachers were forbidden to give it. The Government had given the country to understand that they were anxious to get the people back to the land, but was it likely that they would get the people back to the land if they were made to suffer the disadvantages to which he had referred? Anyone who had had the benefit of having his children brought up in the faith he believed in would remain in the urban areas, and refuse to go back to the rural districts. The Report of the Secretary to the Education Committee of the Nottingham County Council said that the number of children in average attendance in the council schools in the rural districts was 24,963, and in the urban areas 16,888. The net cost per child in the urban areas was 12s. 9d., and in the rural 10s. 7d. The total cost in the urban area was £16,865, and the rural area £13,527. The general rate raised per child in the urban school area was 10s. 10d., and in the rural £1. There was this great difference in the rate between the council school area chiefly urban, and the voluntary school district chiefly rural. If this were perpetuated and it were only permissible to give religious instruction in the voluntary schools upon two days of the week at their own expense, it would not lessen the feeling of injustice that now existed or be in any way beneficial. In the rural areas their only hope of being able to give religious instruction to their children lay in their being included in the four-fifths division.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.) said that this clause raised a matter of very great importance. Catholics did not press so strongly the case of their schools in single school areas, because they recognised that in those areas a very considerable Nonconformist grievance existed; but the number of their schools which would be injuriously affected by the clause as at present drawn was very large indeed. The hon. Member for West Islington asked them to believe that the Catholic schools had been very well treated inasmuch as a comparatively small percentage of Catholic children would be excluded by the clause as it now stood.

MR. LOUGH said that what he had stated was that it would not exceed 9 per cent.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE said that at the present moment in the rural districts the Catholic community would under the Bill lose the grants for 188 Catholic schools. In addition to the 188 Catholic schools in rural districts which would be lost to the Catholics by this Bill in urban districts, under the 5,000 limit there were fifty-five which also would be lost to them. Then came the schools which would be affected by the four-fifths limit—a very serious thing for them—and their loss then would number 254. In all, therefore, they would lose 497 schools, to say nothing of the case of the remaining Catholic schools which would not continue to have the requisite four-fifths and would also be ruled out. It might be said that nearly half of the Catholic schools in the country would be lost to the Catholics by this Bill. The schools might only contain a small number of pupils, but still, from the Catholic point of view, it was a very serious matter. They could not consent to have fifty per cent. of their schools swept away. If the Government would agree to eliminate those schools in the urban area their grievance would be very largely reduced, although it would not be taken away altogether. In view of the concession which they had made in not claiming relief in regard to their schools in single school areas, he thought the Committee might favourably consider any proposal which would lessen their loss.

LORD R. CECIL wished to know how many schools the Roman Catholics had in single school areas.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE said he could not give the figures exactly, but it was a small number. It was perhaps ten or twelve schools, but although the concession they made might not be a large one, still it was as far as they could go to meet the Nonconformist case. If the Government persisted in carrying out their proposals they would certainly create in the minds of Catholics a feeling of irritation, and they would not submit to this grievance. They did not grudge the Church of England anything which she could gain under the Bill, nor did they grudge any other denomination anything which they could obtain, but their concern was with their own schools, and he hoped the Government would reconsider the undoubted grievance which they had.

*MR. TALBOT (Oxford University) said the hon. Member for North Wexford must be under some misapprehension as to the meaning of the hon. Member for West Islington when he spoke of the Church of England being a gainer by this Bill. Even the Parliamentary-Secretary with his fervid imagination could not have been, he was sure, led into saying that. It was because of the deep feeling of the great majority of the people whom he represented, a large body of the clergy and laymen of the Church of England, that he thought it right to rise and express his view in regard to the proposals of the Government. Because the Government had dealt with the difficulties which had arisen in regard to small minorities they claimed to have dealt with the whole question of religious education, but surely there was a large majority whose claims ought no less to be dealt with. What religious body was most affected by this Bill, and who were the people who would be most affected? Surely it was the Church of England—that is, the clergy and laity of that Church. It was not only the clergy who objected to the Bill; it was not even "the ecclesiastically-minded laymen" who were concerned, and who felt this grievance, but the laity generally were aroused upon the subject. That was shown by the public meetings which had been held to protest against the Bill. Anybody who had attended those meetings or had heard of them, was bound to be struck by the fact that they were largely composed of laymen, and nobody who knew the signs of the times could deny that the minds of the clergy and the laity had been stirred to a depth to which he had never seen it stirred before. He had attended a large number of religious and political meetings, and he had never seen such depth of feeling evinced as had been aroused by this Bill. Did the Government think it wise to outrage the conscience of what everybody must admit to be a great religious community, which had done and was still doing great service to the country? Was it right that the interests of the Church of England, who were principally concerned, should be neglected? If the Government minimised these facilities, and confined them to the urban areas, they were excluding from the benefits of the Bill a vast number of the schools in the rural districts which had done, and were still doing, great educational service to the country. The hon. Baronet had spoken of the great sacrifices which members of his communion had made for the purpose of maintaining their schools. They had made no greater sacrifices than the members of the Church of England had made assisted by their clergy, who out of slender pittances had founded and maintained Church schools. He respected the views of Roman Catholics to whom this clause was in the main a concession. Why should it stop short of recognising the sacrifices made by the clergy and laity of the Church of England? The answer which would be made was, he knew, the grievances of Nonconformists in rural parishes, but what was the good of substituting one grievance for another, and why to remedy the grievance of the Nonconformist should the Government inflict an injury upon the Church? The grievance of the Nonconformists was that they had no schools of their own in rural districts, and that they had to contribute to the maintenance of Church schools. As to the first grievance, it had always struck him as curious that in the Principality of Wales, which was a typical instance, while Nonconformists could build places of worship they never, or seldom at all events, built schools, but contentedly sent their children to Church of England schools. Now, at the beginning of the twentieth century, they had raised the grievance of the Nonconformist conscience. Was it not time that Church of England people should say that they too had a conscience? He had, like the passive resisters, a grievance in that he had to contribute to a school board rate although he did not agree with the undenominational character of the teaching afforded under it. What would be the grievance upon his conscience hereafter when besides the London County Council Education Rate he had to contribute to the maintenance of the schools that he had supported for so many years, in which a form of religious instruction was hereafter to be given of which he did not approve? It might be said that that was a mean and paltry way of looking at it, but his conscience disapproved of it and rebelled against it, and was not his conscience as well worthy to be considered as the conscience of any Nonconformist? It was that of which he complained—that there was no remedying of a grievance, but the substitution of a new grievance for an old, and putting a new grievance on the consciences of what he ventured to believe was the majority of this country. He could not say they were the majority, because whenever they asked for a religious census they were refused, and it might be that the Nonconformists were the majority as they stated. He hoped he had said enough on this subject to show that he felt very strongly upon it. He had tried to express himself in a moderate manner, but he warned the right hon. Gentleman that unless the Government made some concession and did not rest content with only remedying the wrong of one religious minority, so far from settling this great educational question they would raise, in the most peaceable and least agitative parts of the country, the ordinary quiet country clergy and laity of the Church of England, and leave in the breasts of such people a feeling of irritation and resentment that it would take years to allay.

MR. JOHN REDMOND thought it was to be regretted that this important matter was being discussed in so thin a House. Clause 4 was put into the Bill to meet the Catholic case, but the figures they had went to show that under its provisions —with regard to the 5,000 population area and the four-fifths —one half of the Catholic schools would be excluded altogether. He did not know whether those figures had been brought forcibly before the right hon. Gentleman as yet. He had not heard him refer to or deal with them, and he asked him to make some statement with reference to them now. It was not possible that the right hon. Gentleman could be satisfied with the state of things in which the clause now stood, in so far as it only applied to one-half of the Roman Catholic schools. If the 5,000 population area was taken alone, 246 Roman Catholic schools out of 1,012 were excluded. There were not many of these single school areas, and so far as he was concerned he was very anxious that the Nonconformist grievance with regard to the single school areas should be completely met, and reduced in regard to those schools which lay between the single school areas and the 5,000 suburban areas. He wanted to know what was to become of those schools which were excluded. He did not want to repeat the arguments, but he desired to represent to the right hon. Gentleman that they were in an entirely different position from the Church schools. The Church schools could take advantage of Clause 3, but these schools would not. What, then, was to become of them? The right hon. Gentleman must surely have come to some conclusion as to what the treatment was to be with regard to disposition of these schools. The figures read to the Committee were fallacious, because they were told that 77 per cent. of these schools would be admitted, and that 91 per cent. of the Catholic children attending school in England would be admitted.

MR. LOUGH: So far as this Amendment is concerned.

MR. JOHN REDMOND said that that was the point: it did not put the whole case before the Committee, because under the operation of the clause, taking all the limitations together, far more than nine per cent. would be excluded. He wanted to know what was to become of these schools, and he rose simply to point out the vital importance of this matter and to say that notwithstanding the way in which their hopes had been dashed by the decisions of the Committee and of the Government, he was convinced that the right hon. Gentleman had something to say with reference to these schools. He hoped he would say it now.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) said he hoped the Government would not be in too conceding a frame of mind. After all, for what purpose did the schools exist? They existed for five days a week and for five hours a day for the purpose of fitting the children in them for this life and enabling them to make a living. It had been assumed too often in these debates that if the children in these schools did not, from the age of five to the age of twelve or thirteen, get denominational instruction, they never did get it. That was not true, but the converse of that was practically true. If they did not get during that period a satisfactory elementary education in general knowledge to fit them for this life and enable them to get a living, they never did get it. The other purpose of these schools, was that of denominational instruction, and that could be and was given out of school hours in churches and chapels, and could be and was continued after the child's school life. He pleaded that nothing should be done that would lessen the efficiency of the schools in these areas, and lessen the efficiency and the teaching in them for five hours a day on the five days of the week. The proposal before the Committee would tend to multiply the number of small schools in the country, and where they got small schools the tendency was to decrease the efficiency, and therefore anything that tended to multiply the number of small schools and keep down the number of the larger schools tended to defeat the specific purpose of those schools for five hours a day on five days of the week. He asked the right hon. Gentleman not to be in too conceding a mood in his great desire to conciliate opposition on an important, but not the most important, part of the Bill, which was to fit the children for this life. Another reason why the Amendment should not be accepted was that it would extend the area of the possible application of that very vicious and retrograde principle of allowing schools to contract themselves out of the Bill and out of the advantage of local control and supervision. He did not think the contracting-out proposal pleased anybody, and it was bad educationally. He opposed the Amendment, and supported the clause as it stood.

MR. MIDDLEMORE (Birmingham, N.) said he had an Amendment on the Paper to the same effect as the one under discussion. The hon. Member for West Nottingham, had defined the real abyss which separated him from some of them. The hon. Gentleman thought that getting on in life was the thing for which schools were established. Churchmen did not believe it, and they rejected it. It was therefore impossible for the hon. Gentleman and them to get into touch on this question. The clause denied the rights of conscience to country areas. Yet the right and duty of worshipping God was the same in the country as in the town. The duties of parents to children were the same in Stoke Poges as in London or Birmingham. It would be just as reasonable to have a local limitation to the study of Shakespeare or Milton. A certain measure of freedom was given to some districts because they were big; in other districts freedom was curtailed because they were little. There was no principle whatever in this strange, almost insane, distinction. Again and again it had been said, chiefly by hon. Gentlemen opposite, that the education question could not be properly discussed unless as a preliminary to discussion logic was thrown to the dogs. Here were thrown to the dogs not only logic but principle also, and there seemed to be nothing left but the paper on which the Bill was written, the bias, and, in some cases, the downright hatred of the Church against which the Bill was directed. The clause was an instance of the intolerance of the whole Bill, and an illustration of the words "New Presbyter is old Priest large writ."

MR. NUSSEY (Pontefract) expressed the opinion that the question asked by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford as to what was to become of the 246 rural Catholic schools which would be excluded from the operation of Clause 4 ought to receive an answer. The Government had admitted that those schools had a right to exceptional treatment, and yet by the adoption of an arbitrary limit which could not be defended they would be excluded from the consideration extended to more fortunate schools in urban districts, and there would be a perpetuation of the condition of passive resistance on the part of a different section of the community. The real grievance which the Bill ought to remedy was the case of the single school area. The Nonconformists had a distinct grievance under the Act of 1902, and as long as they got clear of that he did not see why Catholic schools which complied with the conditions and safeguards embodied in the clause should not receive the benefit of these extended facilities whether they were situated in urban or in rural areas.

*COLONEL WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, W.) said the speech to which the Committee had just listened appeared to assume that the Roman Catholic religion was the one which wanted protection in this country. He should like to ask what was the special reason why the Roman Catholic religion should be protected above other forms of Christianity, and why the same treatment should not be meted out to all sects. The hon. Member for West Nottingham had spoken as if education were purely secular, and that nothing was education unless it were secular. He would appeal to hon. Gentlemen opposite who differed from him as to the form of religious education, whether education was complete without religion. Unless education included religion it would prove a mere snowman, which would melt away under the heat of the turmoil of daily life and the pressure of competition. He was challenged the other day as to whether Cowper-Temple teaching was not a very good foundation for the teaching of religion. It was a foundation of a sort, but it was the loose bricks without the mortar to hold them together. He would much rather a child of his was brought up in a Roman Catholic school than in an undenominational school. The child would at least have a better chance of becoming a good citizen. No doubt some hon. Members would claim that secularism was religion, but where did morality come from.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order. The hon. Member is making a Second Reading speech.

*COLONEL WILLIAMS asked why the children in the country should be debarred from having what the children in the towns might have. He knew an urban area with a population of 5,500, and the schools in that area could exercise this option, but in a school 200 yards outside that area they could not have the same teaching: why should they not have it? If these facilities were granted in urban areas why should they not be granted in rural areas? If it was right for one area, surely it was right for the other. If hon. Members thought they were giving freedom or justice, or showing tolerance by refusing to the children in the country what they had given to the children in the towns, they were very much mistaken, and the people in the country would show very forcibly when they got the opportunity that they were in favour of real freedom and not a sham tolerance.

MR. STUART (Sunderland) found a difficulty in reconciling the statements, on the one hand, that 267 Roman Catholic schools would be excluded under the Bill as it stood, and, on the other hand, that 9 per cent. of the children would be excluded. He would himself have been content to have seen different treatment shown to Roman Catholic schools, and would have liked to have seen the line drawn to include a larger number of them. He did not see any reason for stopping at urban areas more than any other.

MR. LOUGH said the figures were correct, and the explanation was that the schools were small. With regard to what the hon. Member for Sunderland had suggested he was quite sure that the Committee would not agree to give more facilities to Roman Catholics than to other denominations, and he did not think the House would have looked at the Bill had it been drawn on those lines. He appealed to the Committee to come to a decision upon this Amendment.

*MR. CLAVELL SALTER (Hampshire, Basingstoke) agreed that this was an Amendment second only in importance to that with which the Committee recently dealt. They had been engaged for the greater part of two days in a debate upon the merits of denominational teaching, and this was an Amendment to decide whether or not those rights and privileges were to be extended to all the country areas. He deplored the manner in which the debate was being conducted, and could not believe that the Government would leave the question with no better defence than the Committee had heard. There was a strong suspicion that this matter was being "gerrymandered" by the Government and Nonconformists to give as large a bribe as they could to Roman Catholics and as little relief as possible to Church of England schools. If the Government did not desire that impression to get abroad they would have to make some better defence of this exclusion than had yet been attempted. This was an Amendment which threw the onus of proof upon the Government. It was not for the Opposition to show cause why a right or privilege should be extended to the whole country; it was for the Government to show cause why it should be restricted to urban areas. He submitted that any man who had resolved to support Clause 4 ought to support this Amendment. What was the principle upon which the Government had acted in introducing Clause 4? It was the principle that where they could get it without loss of educational efficiency or risk of religious difficulty, denominational education was a right and a good thing. If that was not the principle, the Government had no right to introduce Clause 4. The onus was upon the Government to show why the right to denominational teaching should not be extended to all. The first reason given by the Secretary to the Board of Education for restricting this right to the towns was that the people in the country were so illiterate and so stupid that they could not grapple with the intricacies of the ballot. If that was so, why had they the Parliamentary and the municipal franchise? If he had not heard those words spoken, he would not have believed that any Minister of the Crown would stand up and address such an argument to the House of Commons. The next ground upon which the Committee were asked to agree to this restriction was that there might not be available accommodation elsewhere. That begged the whole question, for unless there was available accommodation elsewhere Clause 4 did not apply at all. In asking the Committee to adopt this proposal the Government practically said, "Where you get the necessary majority, where you have available school accommodation for the minority, and where all the conditions are complied with, then if you live in a town you shall have certain privileges, but if you live in the country you shall not." It was for the Government to defend such a position as that. The third ground given by the hon. Gentleman in support of the restriction was that country schools were smaller than urban schools. He did not see anything in that argument. If four-fifths of the people in a town were to have a right, he did not see why the same proportion of their brethren in the country should not have the same right. Another reason stated was that the privileges under Clause 3 would do very nicely for the Church of England. It was true that if they could not get Clause 4 amended they would have to be content with Clause 3. But in the urban districts, both Clauses 3 and 4 were to apply, and he wished to know upon what ground a distinction was to be made in regard to Clause 4 in the country districts. If Clause 3 would do, why did the Government introduce Clause 4 for the towns? The view of Church people was that this was an illogical and indefensible distinction which no man could justify to his conscience, and that it had been introduced because it was desired to buy off the formidable opposition of the Roman Catholic Church. It was common knowledge that the Roman Catholic schools were situated to a large extent in urban areas. The intention of this distinction could be gathered by the effect which it would produce. By Clause 4 about 75 per cent. of the Roman Catholic schools would be saved, while only about 25 per cent. of the Church schools would be saved. This was striking people in the country as a flagrant injustice. It would be a piece of cynicism if the Government allowed this matter to go to a division without a more adequate attempt to find some real defence for a distinction so palpably unfair, so grossly unjust, and so *prima facie* indefensible. The distinction which was drawn between the urban and the rural districts would be one of the most powerful factors in bringing about the inevitable destruction of the Bill.

*MR. R. PEARCE (Staffordshire, Leek) said he desired to call attention to two Catholic schools in his constituency. They were in the villages of Tean and Dilhorne which were Catholic villages from before the Reformation in England. Seeing that they were in rural areas he was anxious to know what was going to become of them. He was aware that in establishing a great system it was inevitable that here and there hardships should be created. He would not in the least think of opposing the Government, but if something could be done in reference to such schools as these he would be glad.

*Mr. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry) said that Clause 4 would absolutely wreck the Church schools in the rural districts. Some hon. Members had said that Clause 3 gave the Church schools more than they could have expected to receive. He maintained that Clause 3 gave nothing to these schools. It said that if the local authority condescended to make an agreement with them the owners of a school could arrange on two days of the week for denominational teaching out of school hours by teachers other than those of the school. That they could have without the clause at all, and there was absolutely nothing done for rural Church schools under Clause 3. Therefore he said that under this clause the Government were doing a monstrous and gross injustice. Some hon. Members had raised doubts upon the question as to whether the Church was strongly opposed to the Bill. All he could say was that in the division which he had the honour represent, they were violently opposed to it. It was not because they did not recognise that there was still a Nonconformist grievance in country districts that they were not prepared to welcome this Bill.

The DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member must not discuss the Bill, but must confine his observations to the Amendment.

*Mr. BRIDGEMAN said that with all respect he thought he was discussing the effect of this Bill upon rural schools.

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN said that when he interrupted, the hon. Gentleman was pointing out the objection of the Church of England to the Bill itself, whereas he should confine his observations to the Amendment which had been proposed to this particular clause.

*Mr. BRIDGEMAN said he was supporting the Amendment on behalf of the Church of England, and he supported it because although members of that Church felt there was a grievance on the part of Nonconformists which might be redressed, it was not being redressed by this or any other clause of the Bill. Moreover, there was being imposed upon Churchmen by this clause a grievance which was much greater than was generally supposed. Several speakers had referred to this matter as if the only question of importance was that which had reference to Roman Catholic schools. A Ministerialist had suggested that the line should be drawn in some other way so as to include more Roman Catholic schools, and it was said that the Roman Catholics had a right to say that they objected to Cowper-Temple teaching, but that members of the Church of England had not. The hon. Member for Waterford had said that he looked upon Cowper-Temple teaching as the religion of Protestantism, but speaking from the Church of England point of view he might say that he regarded it as the religion of Nonconformity. He objected to it as insufficient religious education for his children. Moreover, there were different kinds of Cowper-Temple teaching, and he did not gather that under this Bill the best kind would be insisted upon. In some cases it meant no religion at all. It meant the simple reading of the Bible, without note or comment. He did not call that sufficient, and the only good that could be obtained from Cowper-Templeism must be obtained when the teacher believed the instruction he was affording and taught it with conviction. But such a system would not satisfy Dr. Clifford, who said that the teaching should consist merely of the ethical, historical, and literary study of the Bible as a book of history. As a member of the Church of England he said that members of that Church had just as much right to say that they objected to a religion which was forced down their throats, as the Roman Catholics had. If anyone doubted that this religion which was going to be forced upon rural schools was the religion of Nonconformity he should like to allude to the words which were used by the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education earlier in the debate. The right hon. Gentleman said that those who knew the struggle the Nonconformists had had to go through for the maintenance of Nonconformity would not wonder that they rejoiced at the opportunity which was being offered to them to acquire in their village the freedom which they sought, and at the joy and pride which they felt in the fact that it might be their own. If the religion which was to be taught was to be their own, he thought he was justified in saying that the religion which was to be taught would satisfy Nonconformists. He did not in the least complain that they should have that religion or that they should have anything else, but what he did complain of was that they should dictate to him as to the religion which he should impart to his children. He thought he had as much right to lay down what religion should be given to his children as the Nonconformist had to say what kind of instruction should be imparted to his. He quite believed that the grievance in the rural districts had been a real one, and that in some parishes the Nonconformist felt that owing to the idiosyncrasies of some of the clergy the children were being taught that of which they did not approve. The parents did not want in those cases to withdraw their children from religious teaching altogether, but they considered that the clergyman taught them religion in a way which was objectionable. No reasonable person could object to the children having, instead of objectionable religious teaching, Cowper-Templeism, but this Bill did not propose that. It proposed to sweep away the Church curriculum and to force upon children religious instruction of which the parents might in ninety-nine cases out of 100 disapprove. He hoped the Government would show them some logical reason why it was right and just that the Roman Catholics should have their consciences considered, and they of the Church of England should not. Why should the parents in urban schools moreover be given the right to have their consciences considered, while the same right was denied to the parents in rural districts. This question could be very easily solved in rural districts by giving fair play all round. That would meet the wishes of Church people as well as Nonconformists. There were very few schools in which there was only one teacher. As a matter of fact he believed there were only 2,000 departments—not schools—in which there was only one teacher and so, perhaps, in one-fifteenth of the cases there might be some difficulty in arranging the classes in regard to denominational or undenominational education, but in fourteen-fifteenths there would be no difficulty at all. Therefore, they were entitled to some explanation from the Government. If the right hon. Gentleman had said that this principle was to be applied to single-school areas there would be some argument in it, but the Government had not said that. In each of two parishes in which he was interested there were two schools and it would be possible to make arrangements which would suit everybody, and he could not understand why this arbitrary distinction should be made and why people in rural districts should not have the same chance of doing that which they did in urban districts. The whole proposal was absurdly illogical and impossible, and he asked the Government to extract themselves from the entangled position in which they now stood and put themselves in a position which they could defend as one of principle and in which they could not be assailed from every side as they were at present.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir W. ROBSON, South Shields) appealed to the Committee to pass on to other subjects connected with the clause, and pointed out that in view of the fact that the debate would be compulsorily determined at a given moment it was not desirable that Members should take up too much time in discussing one question. Nor was it desirable that members of the Government should occupy too much of the time which primarily belonged to the Opposition, and after all he could only say what had been said before in reply to the contentions of hon. Members on the Opposition side of the House. But he did want to make some observations in reply to the speech to which they had just listened, and two or three previous speeches. The hon. Member for the Oswestry Division had said that this clause absolutely wrecked Church of England schools in rural districts, and the hon. Member who preceded him spoke of the Bill as saving only 25 per cent. of the Church schools as against 75 per cent. of the Roman Catholic schools. Now he did ask hon. Members, not with any expectation that it would have any effect, whether in saying this they were just to the Bill or even just to their own case. Was it right to talk of Church of England schools as being wrecked or lost in view of the special facilities for religious education provided by Clause 3? Members of the Church of England were not entitled to speak of these special facilities in the same way as members of the Roman Catholic Church. [OPPOSITION cries of "Why not?"] Because, in the Church of Rome, the Church was the supreme authority in interpreting the Bible, a view which was directly contrary to the doctrine of the Church of England. There was therefore that distinction between members of the Church of England and members of the Roman Catholic Church. The Roman Catholic Church had laid it down for all time that their authority was supreme in interpreting the Bible, whereas the Church of England had also laid it down for all time that the Bible was to be the sole and supreme test in deciding matters of doctrine. If he discussed these matters it was only in answer to the challenge of hon. Members opposite, and his contention was that they were not entitled as Churchmen to say that their schools would be lost and wrecked, because the religious education in the schools would continue to be given as amply and sufficiently as it had been given in the past. Such religious education as had been given would be continued and maintained, even more fully than ever, at the public cost. The Church of England would continue their schools at the public cost, and would continue to give precisely the same education as had been given before, and yet hon. Members used such extravagant language about their schools being wrecked.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University) said they had reached a most interesting development of the argument in support of the Bill. They had always regarded Clause 4 as giving a modicum of religious freedom to all denominations equally considered, but the discussion had thrown light upon the subject and had shown that advantages were to be secured by particular denominations while others were not so favoured. They had a different explanation given of Clause 4 now from that which was given on the Second Reading. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said that the clause was put in with a special view of meeting the Roman Catholics. That meant that the clause was put in not with the idea of preserving religious liberty but in order to secure the Irish vote. The Minister for Education, however, in winding up the debate, said the clause was intended to be a charter of educational freedom to the village. Therefore, according to the President of the Board of Education, the clause was intended not so much to let the Roman Catholics in as to keep the Church of England out. Now they were informed by the Solicitor-General that the proposals of the Bill were based in some way not explained on the decrees of the Council of Trent.

SIR W. ROBSON denied that the right hon. Gentleman correctly interpreted his words. He had simply asked why Protestants should object to Bible teaching.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON was glad to ascertain that the learned Solicitor-General did not see any close connection between the Council of Trent and the 5,000 limit of population, but he had gathered that from his words. What was the distinction to be drawn in this matter? Was it population? If so he ventured to say it was a defective basis if the statistics of the various parishes or urban districts were examined. He knew of one single rural parish with a population of 11,000, and in this parish there were three council schools and one voluntary school. There could be no reason why that voluntary school should be excluded from the privileges of Clause 4 was the distinction based on provision of council school accommodation. If so, it was equally fallacious, for there were large towns in which all the schools were voluntary schools, and these would be excluded from the clause.. The distinction which it was sought to draw was absolutely meaningless and could only be based upon some political consideration, which had nothing to do with religious education, or with anything to which one could attach any reasonable motive unless it was a political motive such as appeared to be suggested by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the

President of the Board of Education. Many rural parishes had two schools, and there was no difficulty in providing accommodation for the denominations; and he submitted that where facilities were wanted, and could be granted without injustice or inconvenience, they should be granted. He knew a case of a school in a rural parish established for the instruction of the poor in the principles of the Church, of England, and for no other purpose. There was not, he understood, in the parish, one dissenter from the Church of England; the fathers and mothers of the children in the school, it was reported, earnestly desired that their children should continue to be taught the religion they themselves professed by the master and mistress of the school, to whom they were attached, and the ratepayers, it was stated, were of the same opinion. Nevertheless, as his correspondent, a gentleman who held a very high official position and who was incapable of expressing anything but a sound opinion upon the education question, who drew his attention to these facts pointed out, the schoolmaster must resign his office or give the children no more of that instruction which they had been accustomed to receive. He thought many other cases might be found of a similar character. His correspondent informed him that he and others had satisfied themselves as to the facts of this case.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the number of the inhabitants?

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he really could not give them, but he did not see what numerical considerations had to do with the matter.

AN HON. MEMBER: Will the hon. Baronet give the name?

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he was perfectly prepared to hand the letter he had received to the Parliamentary Secretary.

AN HON. MEMBER wished to know whether these parishioners were tenants of the hon. Baronet's correspondent.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said he thought he might answer that with a most decided negative. What were those interested to do in such a case? Were they to take refuge in the cold comfort of Clause 3? What did Clause 3 give them? They lost the teacher; they might have their religious teaching out of school hours. Religious teaching out of school hours was really no concession at all, because the children might be summoned by anybody at any time out of school hours to receive any form of religious teaching which they were willing to receive. What was desired, however, was religious instruction by the teacher to whom they were accustomed. In a town no doubt it might be possible to replace the teacher, but it was not so easy in the country. He would like to ask what would be the effect of this change in the rural areas. Hon. Members opposite were anxious to bring the people back to the land. What were they doing to encourage that idea? What were they doing with regard to the intellectual life of the village? Was not that to be found in the parson and the teacher? They were turning the parson out of the school up to the moment that they turned the teacher out of the school in order that someone else should give religious instruction. He ventured to think they would find henceforth greater trouble in getting good teachers for the schools than they did at present. The tendency of the good teachers to go to the towns would be more markedly developed when the clergyman of the parish was turned out of the schools and the common interest which both parson and teacher had taken in the welfare of the school was destroyed: he feared that the teaching would suffer in consequence, not only the religious teaching, but the teaching allround. These facilities, if they meant anything, meant a great deal, and the people who asked for them regarded them as an important factor in education, in the religious as well as the intellectual life of their children. The interest of the parent in the religious life of his child did not depend on the fact that he lived in a rural or an urban area or on the fact that he was one of a population of 5,000 or that he was one of the four-fifths majority. There was no religious difficulty in the schools. The only religious difficulty that he had heard of recently was the case of a Nonconformist child, the only one in the school, whose father complained that he was not taken to church with the rest of the children on Ascension Day. Hon. Gentlemen opposite were not in the least aware of the feeling they were creating in the rural areas by this Bill. He had had frequent communications, not from large urban centres, but from small rural areas all over the country which forced upon him the conviction that there was a deep-seated indignation at the wanton change the right hon. Gentleman's Bill would bring about in the educational condition of the parishes. He thought before long the Government would realise that their policy was not merely resented by Churchmen in great urban centres; that it was not merely a question for great political meetings, but that it had caused a widespread and deep-seated animosity in every quarter throughout the land.

*MR. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley) said the Amendment before the Committee was intended to secure that in the voluntarily transferred schools there should be the same right to religious instruction as was to be given under the four-fifths provision. But the hon. Gentleman the Member for Oxford University had made no reference in his speech to the great grievance of the Nonconformists, namely, that in 8,000 parishes throughout the country there was only one elementary day school, and that a church school; that into that school the children of the Nonconformists were compelled by law to go for their education, and that they had had hitherto only the safeguard of the conscience clause which was practically no safeguard at all. That was a very great grievance to the Nonconformists, and they were determined that in these 8,000 schools, carried on entirely at the public expense, there should not be longer continued instruction in the religious doctrines of one Church only. That involved a gross violation of the principles of religious liberty and equality of the Nonconformists of this country. The question of religious equality was thus forced upon them by this Amendment. There could be no question that in the areas to which these schools belonged, the giving to the children definite Church of England religious training only on two days a week meant that the Nonconformists suffered an injustice if they did not under this clause claim in these schools to be put on an equality with the Church, and to give their children also definite religious teaching. It was true that in some of the populous rural districts some Members of the House might desire a change. There was a great deal to be said in favour of the four-fifths provision in populous rural districts where there was a good choice of schools. He had such an area in the division he represented, and it was only right that he should claim for that district the same facilities as were given to the urban districts. But in that district there were five schools, two county, two church, and one Roman Catholic school. Personally he would desire that these schools should be treated in the same way as similar schools in urban districts. But there was a very great gulf between such school districts and the 8,000 single school areas.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) thought the hon. Member for Barnsley had gone a little wide of the argument. It was desirable that they should have figures, and the hon. Gentleman had mentioned 8,000, but he did not think he would find that number in any Parliamentary Return. He must also remind the hon. Gentleman that with reference to Clause 3, when the noble Lord beside him endeavoured to give to every Nonconformist denomination the privilege of having their doctrines taught in the single school districts, the Liberal Party voted down the Amendment to prevent the very facilities for which the hon. Gentleman was pleading so arduously just now. No argument had yet been adduced to show why an urban area with a population of 5,000 should be adopted as a standard of conscience with reference to the religious tenets of the children. No feature in this Bill was more resented than this one. The hon. Member for Barnsley had repeated that this was a question of a great grievance in connection with single school districts. It was nothing of the sort. It did not apply to single school districts at all. The argument of those on the Opposition side was that the test should not be that of population, but that it should depend on a reasonable demand for facilities. The arbitrary distinction of population could not possibly be allowed to stand. He hoped that when the question was put they might at all events have the last word reserved so that they would be able to insert "urban or rural," for if they were not allowed to go below 5,000 it should include the rural areas with a population of 5,000 and over. He was sure the wit of man, and he was quite sure the wit of the Government, could not devise any reason why a population of 5,000 in a rural area should be in any sense different from a population of the same size in an urban area. He hoped, therefore, the Government would reconsider this point.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) said the hon. Member for Barnsley had laid stress upon the fact that Nonconformists felt it to be a strong grievance that in 8,000 parishes there was only a single school for the district. So far as the Roman Catholics were concerned they had not a word to say in favour of one school with one religious atmosphere for the children of different denominations, and they were willing to support any proposal which would safeguard the right of the Nonconformist child in a single school district. But that was not the point of the Amendment. It was an essential condition of getting additional facilities for the four-fifths school that there should be more than one school. Roman Catholics would not raise any objection whatever to its being made as clear as words could make it that, where there was a single school district, there could not and there should not be, any privilege enabling one denomination to have complete religious control of the school. They had been waiting for the answer of the Government to their case. The Catholics stated on the authority of the Government returns that under this provision 240 of their schools would be excluded. They also contended that under the four-fifths limitation another 200 would be excluded, and this meant that about 50 per cent. of the Catholic schools would be excluded from the national system of the country.

MR. BIRRELL dissented.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said the calculation he had made was based upon the right hon. Gentleman's own figures. The official Return put the number of schools which would be above the 5,000 limit at 77 per cent., therefore about 23 per cent. would be excluded. The answer given by the Secretary to the Board of Education was that although it was true that only 77 per cent. of the schools were included, the percentage of scholars included was 91 per cent. Now what was the reason for that disparity? The reason was that the schools in the small communities excluded by the 5,000 limit were small with a small number of scholars, whereas the schools in the urban districts were large. It was no answer to say that because the children were protected in the urban districts they should not be protected in the rural districts. They had just heard a remarkable speech from the hon. Member for the Leek Division of Staffordshire, who had pointed out that in his constituency there were two Catholic schools which had belonged to the Catholics since the Reformation. Up and down Lancashire there were little spots where they had maintained the Catholic Creed all through the Reformation down to the present day. Was it not too cruel that a little Catholic community having a Catholic school attended by Catholic children, in which the attendance was not four Catholics to one Protestant, should be deprived of facilities which the Minister for Education had declared openly that he desired to give, and this in a Catholic school which dated from pre-Reformation times? The Minister for Education had said that he wanted Clause 4 to be a reality and not a fraud or delusion, and that the reason he opposed the mandatory Amendment was because he believed that the procedure he proposed would better carry out the objects desired. When they found that 25 per cent. of the Catholic schools were excluded by this limitation, what became of the right hon. Gentleman's desire to make the clause a reality? His information from the heads of the Catholic Church was that the four-fifths limitation would exclude 25 per cent. of their schools. If 25 per cent. of the Catholic schools were excluded by one provision and 50 per cent. by another from the benefits of Clause 4, what was the good of the passionate hopes and desires of the right hon. Gentleman? So far as they were concerned, any Amendment which would save the single school district they were ready to welcome and support.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON: There are already twenty-nine Amendments down to Sub-section (b).

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said that he was in favour of any Amendment which would secure protection for the children in the rural districts. This was a real grievance of the Catholics, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see that the benefits which he meant to give them under Clause 4 were not destroyed.

MR. BIRRELL said he had listened to the speech of the hon. Member for the Scotland Division and of the hon. and learned Member for Waterford with perfect sympathy. It was to him a matter of great personal regret that any school of the character described should be excluded from the four-fifths clause. Speaking generally, he could wish that all the Roman Catholic schools were in a position to come within the limit of the clause. It was to him some satisfaction, at all events, to find that Clause 4, which had not been procured without difficulty, did not stand where it did without representing a good deal of difficulty, and he might even say of obstinacy and endurance. He was glad to think that this clause of theirs did secure very remarkable, though, he agreed, not entirely satisfactory, results. It had been already mentioned by his hon. friend the Parliamentary Secretary that 819 Roman Catholic schools were in urban areas with a population of 5,000 and over, representing 77·1 per cent. of the total number of Catholic schools and 91 per cent. of the children in attendance in Catholic schools. That could not be said to be nothing.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR: I did not say so.

MR. BIRRELL said it was an achievement, although he wished for a larger achievement. At all events, it was not to be spoken of as if they had not accomplished something for the object which hon. Gentlemen opposite had at heart. He could not agree that a large number of the four-fifths schools within these areas would be deprived of the benefit of this clause because of the attendance at them of Protestant children. Nothing had surprised him more during his short tenure of office than to know how many Protestant children were in the habit of attending Roman Catholic schools. He thought the hon. Member for East Mayo gave one of the real reasons when he said it was due to the anxiety of parents to secure for their children the kindly teaching they often received at the hands of nuns. The hon. Member had also suggested that these good ladies had faculties for dealing with froward and troublesome children with more care and patience than the ordinary teacher was, perhaps, able to bestow. He had made some inquiry into the reasons which prompted Protestant parents to send their children to Roman Catholic schools, and he had not discovered that any religious results in the sense of inducing the children to become members of the Roman Catholic Church followed. He was very much astonished the other day to see inscribed in Roman Catholic books of devotion, signed by a Roman Catholic Bishop as prizes for religious knowledge, the names of children whom he knew to be Wesleyans and actually attending Wesleyan churches and Sunday schools, but who nevertheless went to Roman Catholic schools and exhibited such success and skill in mastering Roman Catholic theology that the Bishop inscribed their names in books of Roman Catholic devotion. That showed him that a large number of children did go to Roman Catholic schools without any intention of becoming converts, and for the sake of the training they received there. He imagined that those parents who sent their children deliberately to Roman Catholic schools because they were satisfied with them would certainly support those schools in their applications for extended facilities under this clause. They would desire the schools to go on as they had done in order that they might secure the teachers in whom they had confidence, and he had no doubt whatever that, although in no sense Roman Catholics themselves, they would, for the purpose of securing the four-fifths facilities, vote with the orthodox Roman Catholic. That was why he could not suppose for a moment that it was true that only one-half of the Roman Catholic schools in the country would receive the benefit of the clause. That some would be excluded he had to admit would be the case, and all he could say was that the clause was an artificially constructed clause. Nobody could deny that for a moment. It sought to secure the largest amount of benefit with the smallest amount of danger. It was asked why the difference was made between an urban and a rural area. It did represent a real and broad distinction, the distinction between the country atmosphere and the town atmosphere, and the Government thought they had arrived at the best possible way of distinguishing between the two areas. If rural areas were included in the benefits of subsection (*b*), which made it necessary that there should be suitable public school accommodation close at hand, this would give rise to difficult questions. How far off was a country school to be? In the country districts a child was often expected to walk two or two and a half miles. The hardship of that clearly depended on the character of the country and the nature of the roads. He had a case to decide lately as to the continuance of a school in Bedfordshire, where, a village being angry at a proposal to stop their school, an appeal was made to him, and he had to take into consideration the character of the road along which the children would have to travel to another school. It was a high, exposed, bitter, bleak, clay road, which in the months of November and December was a terribly hard road for children to travel along. That was the sort of question arising all over the country when one was dealing with a rural area. Hard cases made bad law, according to the legal maxim. They had to make rules which might be called arbitrary or unreasonable, but they must draw a real distinction between the conditions of town and country life. Without defending the distinction drawn as in any sense a complete and final answer, the Government were bound to make this distinction between town and country, and they had not been able to discover any better way than by limiting these schools to urban areas and defining rural areas as areas with a population of 5,000.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that this very important Amendment was being discussed under various disadvantages. One of the disadvantages of the discussion had been that the Minister for Education, being human, had to dine like the rest of them, and had not had the great advantage of hearing the Parliamentary Secretary and some of the speeches made from his own side in support of his own proposals. The hon. Member for Barnsley had probably by this time discovered that he was really arguing in favour of the Amendment and against something which was not the Amendment at all. He had also probably impressed upon the Government in private what he had forcibly impressed upon the Committee that there was a district in his constituency excluded from all the advantages of Clause 4. It was to be feared he was going to be disappointed; that he was going to be thrown over and that the too severe Minister for Education, faithfully followed by his cohorts on that side of the House, was going to sacrifice Barnsley. He sympathised with Barnsley; but it would be unfair not to give a similar word of condolence to Leek, for the other Gentleman who got up to speak for the Government—the hon. Member for Leek—had explained that there were two small Roman Catholic schools in his constituency which under the Bill of the Government would be entirely sacrificed; and, ardent as he was in opposing the Amendment, anxious as he was to support the Government, he earnestly pleaded for some mercy for the schools going to be sacrificed. His sympathy with Barnsley he extended in the same whole-hearted manner to Leek. Really it was peculiarly unfortunate that the only two Gentlemen who had supported the Government should have been obliged to explain how much the measure of the Government would injure their own constituencies. He did not know whether they were fair samples of the generous support which the Government at present seemed to anticipate. If he came to the independent supporters of the Government, and to the argument they had advanced against his hon. friend, and if he came to the Government themselves and their own account of the reasons which had induced them to make this exception in favour of urban areas, there were two speeches to be considered—the speech of the Parliamentary Secretary and the speech just delivered. The speech of the Parliamentary Secretary was an interesting one, and gave many statistics in a form not usually very clear; but he really gave them only two arguments for the differentiation between urban and rural districts. The first was one held in common with the Minister for Education, but the other, which for some reason that Minister did not repeat, was that the ballot was an instrument suited to the intelligence of the urban district but that the stupid rural parent could not be asked to vote by ballot as to the kind of education he desired his child to have. That was not very complimentary to the rural parent, and it seemed rather like a serious indictment of the Ballot Act, but it was wholly unfounded. He suggested that there should be no ballot at all if that was too delicate an instrument for rural districts. A more serious argument was advanced by the Minister for Education. He, throwing over the Member for Barnsley, admitted that the Amendment did not touch areas where there was no alternative school, but only where there was such a school, but he said how difficult it was to determine in the country whether there was or was not an alternative school, that the macadam in the road had to be considered, whether the pathway was wet, how many stiles had to be crossed, and all the other difficulties incident to rural locomotion. Without arguing upon these difficulties, he asked did not similar difficulties arise in regard to urban districts? Responsible educational authorities had made tremendous fuss over the fact that to get to a certain school children had to cross a big, much-frequented thoroughfare, and there were other obstacles. So that in town as in country it was not merely a question of distance, and if a distinction was to be founded on the difficulty in finding an alternative school there were similar difficulties in towns. If then there was no distinction between town and country, what arguments were left for the Government? There was no distinction, and he thought it was perfectly obvious from the speeches made and from the clause that the sole reason why the Government had introduced this arbitrary division between areas in both of which were alternative schools was that only by drawing such a distinction could they do a good deal for the Church of Rome—only by drawing such a distinction could they do great injury to the Church of England. The right hon. Gentleman had admitted that 25 per cent. of the Roman Catholic schools would be excluded by this clause, but he explained that the clause was so ingeniously drawn that only 9 per cent. of their children would be excluded. Why was that an achievement? The only possible explanation of its being an achievement was that the Government had contrived to find a line which would include most of the Roman Catholic children and exclude an enormous number of Church of England children. There were many rural areas where there were alternative schools, where four-fifths of the children belonged to the Established Church, where the Church had built and had maintained the schools. On what principle were they to be excluded? The only possible answer was that the Government deliberately intended this Bill to be a blow at the Church denominational schools, and the only limitation which they had put on themselves, or which had been placed upon them, in the degree to which they meant to injure the Church schools was the fact that if they went beyond a certain point the injury to the Roman Catholic schools would be intolerable. They had an opportunity of adopting the principle, which even if adopted would inflict great hardship on Church schools in single-school areas, that wherever there was an alternative school and wherever there was a desire on the part of the majority of those attending the school to have denominational religion that desire should be satisfied. That principle was plain, intelligible, and easily acceptable. Why did not the Government accept it? If Members opposite did sincerely desire, and he knew many of them did, that there should not be in the face of the Bill any provisions clearly and obviously aimed at the Established Church, if they really did desire that there should be no bitterness inflicted on the Members of that

Church, was not this the least they could give? They could not pretend that it was unjust or that any Nonconformist child or parent was injured, and yet, while they redressed no grievance of those whom they were bound, he admitted, to represent in this House, why should they gratuitously inflict upon the members of one Church an injury which they were anxious to avoid with regard to members of the other Church, and which they were only prevented from avoiding wholly by the fact that they could not give everything which the Roman Catholics asked for without giving a great deal to the Church of England? It was quite true that only 9 per cent. of the Catholic children were injured by this clause as it stood, and that, therefore, by the Amendment they would only benefit 9 per cent. of the Catholic children. But it was also true that the absolute number of Church of England children and parents who would be benefited was far greater, and was it really to be argued that, while they agreed that there was a grievance on the part of the Roman Catholics, the Government refused to redress it for fear that in doing so they would do a similar act of justice to the Church of England? The matter would not bear argument for a moment. It was persecution, and gratuitous persecution. No principle that had ever been proclaimed on any Nonconformist platform would be violated by the granting of this concession. No mandate that any human being had ever pretended was given at the last election would be violated. There could only be one motive for refusing it, and that motive was to injure the Church of which so many of the opponents of the Government were members.

Question put.

The Committee divided: Ayes, 344; Noes, 186. (Division list, No. 153.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Chas. P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, J. A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, JohnEmmott(Somers't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beale, W. P.
Beaumont, H. (Eastbourne)
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John W. (Devonport)
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J.H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.)
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire,N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, Sir J. T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. Jas. (Aberdeen)
Bryce, J. A.(Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard K.
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W,
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew,W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W. J. (S.Pancras,W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,CH(Sussex,EGrinst'd)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David(Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dickinson, W.H. (St. PancrasN
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Maj. E. Martin(Walsall
Edward, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hn. John Edward
Essex, R. W.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hn. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)

Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hn. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh
Harvey, A. G .C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, JM(Aberdeen, W.)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Dean (Fife, West)
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gaetshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy (Essex,Harwich
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hn. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold

Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Larne, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon(Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Marsie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montague, E. S.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncaster
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, SirW.D. (Colchester)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampt'n
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John(Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, W. E. B.(Bradford
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon

Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbt. L. (Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Ship, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edw. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward, W. Dudley(Southomptn
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonsh.)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland

Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)

Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, HenryJ.(York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wintrey, R.

Wodehouse, Lord(Norfolk,Mid.
Wood, T. M‘Kinnon
Woodhouse, SirJT.(Huddersf'd

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon.SirH.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach, Hn.MichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir EdwardH
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hon.J.(Birm.
Clancy, John Joseph
Coates, E. Feetham(Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Crean, Eugene
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dillon, John
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)

Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Glover, Thomas
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, Laurence(KentAshford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazelton, Richard
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hogan, Michael
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn.Col.W.
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
King,SirHenry Seymour (Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.(Fareham
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M‘Calmont, Colonel James
M‘Hugh, Patrick A.
M‘Kean, John
M‘Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,JohnThrogmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham

Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, SirGilbert(Gravesend)
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, JohnE.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, Chas. H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seddon, J.
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool,Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Starkey, John R.
Sullivan, Donal
Sutherland, J. E.
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)

Willoughby, de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

And, it being after Eleven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

CORK CITY RAILWAYS AND WORKS BILL [BY ORDER].

Order for Third Reading read (King's consent signified.)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.), in moving the rejection of the Bill, said the House of Commons was being asked by this railway company to allow them to evade the Parliamentary obligations which they undertook in 1898. Under the Bill the counties concerned were being asked to contribute £25,000 out of the public funds for the purpose of completing the link line which the railway company solemnly undertook to build with their own money. The county of Waterford, a part of which he had the honour of representing, had a strong moral claim that the fund out of which this money had been promised should be devoted to purposes for the benefit of the county. Waterford in the past undertook an enormously heavy guarantee for the building of this railway, and it was afterwards found that the line could not be completed for the £280,000 which was the full extent of the capital raised by the company, and consequently an application was made for a loan to enable them to complete the line, and they obtained a loan of £93,000. The county ratepayers were not consenting parties to the arrangement, but they got, in consideration of their guarantee of £14,000 a year, a right to the surplus profits of the company in excess of the 5 per cent. interest on the £280,000 share capital. Just at the time when it seemed likely that the county ratepayers might be recouped for the enormous amount they found for maintaining the railway an arrangement for the purchase of the line under an agreement with two other railway companies was made. When the through route was completed the ratepayers expected some recoupment of the large advances they had made during all those years, but nevertheless they consented to forego their claim to be recouped the £292,000 they had paid, which had been increased to £350,000, in consideration of those companies building a direct line from Cork to Fermoy, and the ratepayers got a remission of half the £14,000 a year, but were still liable for £7,000 a year. Parliament was now being asked to allocate some of this money for the benefit of people who had never spent a penny upon the undertaking. He heartily approved of the works that were to be done under the Bill, but these railway companies, having come under obligations to Parliament, should be asked by Parliament to discharge them. There was no excuse for them whatever. Hon. Members on that side of the House who were supporting the Bill were guilty of complicity in helping the companies to evade their Parliamentary obligations. A large proportion of the ratepayers of the county of Cork were not in favour of the allocation of the money which would be made if the scheme in the Bill were carried out, for they had hoped that it would be devoted to the making of the Cork and Fermoy direct line. They were not in favour of an allocation of the money which would relieve these railway companies of their obligations. In his own experience of Parliament he had never known such a flagrant evasion of Parliamentary obligations. The Committee who considered the Bill were not to blame for passing it, because they had not before them all the evidence which could be brought forward against it. The question which the House had to decide was whether the Treasury was to be allowed to give £25,000 to enable the railway companies to evade their obligations. He did not see why the House should help them with public funds to get out of their undertakings. Parliament should treat with scant ceremony any Bill promoted by these companies until they had carried out the obligations they had already undertaken in the matter. He begged to move.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.), in seconding said he had all along thought that the case against the Bill was unanswerable. The Treasury was now going to do what on two previous occasions it had refused to do, namely, to assist two great companies to evade their statutory obligations. In corroboration of the views laid before the House, he would read an extract from a speech delivered by the Chairman of the hybrid Committee who considered this matter some years ago. Speaking in this House on July 23rd, 1901, with reference to the construction of the Cork and Fermoy Railway, Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth, now Lord Shuttleworth, said :

> "Before he sat down he would refer to the idea mooted by the company, that they would offer an alternative to the construction of this railway. But what did they offer? They offered as an alternative to carry out a second obligation—one of many, but a second obligation which they equally solemnly undertook, namely, with the co-operation of the City of Cork, to connect this new system with that particular district for the benefit of the fishing and agricultural industries. He hoped the House of Commons and the Government would not for a moment entertain the idea that, because the company offered to carry out one of their obligations, they therefore, should be let off carrying out the other."

That was the view of a Gentleman who had studied the matter well. The Bill would probably get through its various stages, and he wished to know whether it would be competent for the Treasury to put an estimate on the Paper during the autumn session for the money which the company was to receive, or whether it must be deferred until next year, when they would have further opportunity of discussing the matter and of showing the scandalous way in which the railway companies had acted.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and to add the words 'upon this day three months'."—(*Mr. O'Shee.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.) said he hoped the hon. Member for West Waterford would excuse him if he did not answer him in detail. He would remind the hon. Gentleman that this subject had been fully debated at various stages, and that after every argument that could be used had been heard the House was in favour of the Bill by 196 votes to 27 against. After such a crushing defeat he should have thought that the hon. Member would not have had the courage to discuss the case again. He would have ample opportunity of discussing the whole question when the £25,000 was put on the Estimates next year. He trusted that the Bill would now be read a third time.

Question put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to. Bill read the third time, and passed.

WIRRAL RAILWAY (EXTENSION OF TIME) BILL [LORDS].

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment to Question [24th May], "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Which Amendment was—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months'."—(*Mr. William Lever.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

MR. W. H. LEVER (Cheshire, Wirral) said he wished to withdraw the Amendment which he had previously moved, that the Bill be read a second time this day three months.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question put, and agreed to. Bill read a second time, and committed.

MR. W. H. LEVER said he wished to move the following Resolution: "That it be an instruction to the Committee that they shall provide that the Wirral Railway

Company shall not run any omnibus in any city, borough, or other urban district provided with a system of tramways or omnibuses except with the consent of the local authority or local authorities, as the case may be, working such tramways or omnibuses." He did so in order that this House might have an opportunity of settling a most important principle. Before the ratepayers' money, amounting to £135,000, was allowed to be invested in these tramways, a most exhaustive inquiry was held, not only as to the advantage the expenditure would give to the public, but also to see whether the ratepayers' money was invested on sound lines. Therefore it seemed a remarkable thing that now a railway company should come forward with a Bill which would enable them to run motor omnibuses in direct conflict with this system of municipal tramways. It was not that objection was taken to any additional means of locomotion being provided to the ratepayers; it was the competition from railway companies—competition which was never intended that the municipalities should have to face at the time when they were permitted by the House of Commons to invest the money of the ratepayers in tramways. If the railway company were allowed to use the roads in the municipality to the cost and repair of which they paid nothing, it would be a most unfair mode of competition. The Bill contained a clause in which the railway company declared that they only sought power to take up and set down passengers from their railway stations. That, he thought, was a fallacious clause, the only object of the promoters in inserting it being to recognise the strength of the opposition and the justice of the claims of the municipality. The object of the railway company would be better served by the insertion of the Instruction which stood in his name and which he begged to move.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland) Seconded the Motion. He thought that to grant this concession to the railway company would be most unfair to the municipal tramways undertaking in the district. The Company had sent a circular to Members of the House in which they stated that the use of these 'buses would be limited to *bona fide* passengers on their railway. It was however in his judgment impossible to ascertain whether people were *bona fide* passengers or not. The municipality must pay off within thirty-five years the capital advanced to them to start their undertaking and he did not think a railway company should be allowed to set up a system of motor omnibuses in competition with the tramway authorities.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee that they shall provide that the Wirral Railway Company shall not run any omnibus in any city, borough, or other urban district provided with a system of tramways or omnibuses except with the consent of the local authority or local authorities, as the case may be, working such tramways or omnibuses."—(*Mr. W. H. Lever.*)

MR. TOMKINSON (Cheshire, Crewe) rose to move as an Amendment to the Instruction proposed—

"In line 6, after the word 'omnibus,' to insert the words, 'but that if such consent shall be unreasonably withheld the matter shall be determined by the Board of Trade, whose decision shall be final and binding.'"

MR. SUMMERBELL asked as a point of order whether, in face of the provision in the Bill, paragraph E, page 6, giving an appeal to the Board of Trade, the Amendment could be put.

*MR. SPEAKER said it was some what hard to say on the spur of the moment whether the question of unreasonably withholding consent was or was not a matter in regard to which the Company might consider themselves aggrieved within this section. He did not think, however, that any harm would result if the Amendment of the hon. Member for Crewe were accepted. It might be incorporated in the Bill without any contradiction of its other provisions.

*MR. TOMKINSON moved his Amendment, and said he thought it right at the outset to say that he was a director of the railway in question, and therefore might be regarded with suspicion. He did not think that prevented him, however, from stating the case as fairly as possible, although he might say that he had no intention of voting if the question went to a division. It would be seen that there was only a small point of difference between the railway company and those whom his hon. friend represented. There were, however, certain circumstances with which he thought the House ought to be acquainted. The Wirral Railway was a small one consisting of only twelve miles of line, although it was in a populous district. It connected the watering places of West Kirby and New Brighton with Wallasey and other places, and was also connected with the Mersey Railway. About ten years ago, at the instance of this very urban council, and in order to serve their district, the Wirral Railway Company made a fresh line of two or three miles from Seacombe Ferry to the great advantage of the district. In the present year this authority promoted a Bill, and brought it before a very strong Committee of the House of Lords, which also dealt with this Bill, of which Lord Cawdor was Chairman. The Bill of the Wirral Company was heard first, and a decision postponed until the whole of the circumstances with regard to both Bills had been thrashed out. After hearing the case of the Wallasey Urban Council, who wished to take powers to run a tramway practically alongside this very railway and thus deprive them of their passengers, the Committee threw out the Bill of the Wallasey District Council and passed the Wirral Railway Bill. The Wirral Railway Company only asked that their Bill should be passed, and they were quite willing to accept this Instruction if there was an appeal to the Board of Trade. He thought under the circumstances there was a reason for the company asking for such an appeal. His hon. friend the Member for Birkenhead had said—"Why do you not go into the country instead of coming to this urban district where there are no tramways and get passengers?" He remembered, however, that a fortnight ago the hon. Gentleman himself denounced motor 'buses running in these rural districts and injuring the farmers. They all knew, however, that the rural authorities objected to the use of their roads for this purpose, although their people used the roads in the towns. In view of the fact that the railways were rated up to the hilt and that the incidence of the rates fell heavily upon them, he thought the present opposition to the Bill was neither fair nor reasonable.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) seconded the Amendment. Being intimately acquainted with Liverpool he would endeavour to put the position clearly before the House. The hon. Member for the Wirrall Division, in proposing his Motion, had disclaimed any objection to improved locomotion, but said that what he objected to was competition. It was not the interest of railway companies or municipalities which ought to be considered in cases of this kind, but the interest of the public. In this particular case the municipality had obtained power to compete with the railway; why, therefore, should not the railway compete in the interest of the public? The Motion was not really honest, because it was certain that it would prevent the railway company running motor 'buses to their own stations without the consent of the municipality, and that consent would never be given. The only proposal of the Amendment was to leave the question to be decided by the Board of Trade.

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of the proposed Amendment, to add the words 'but that if such consent shall be unreasonably withheld the matter shall be determined by the Board of Trade, whose decision shall be final and binding.'"—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping) said this was a matter of principle upon which a representative of the Board of Trade ought to be heard, and as there was no representative of that Department present he moved the adjournment of the debate.

Motion made, and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned" put, and negatived.

Question put, "That those words be there added."

The House divided:—Ayes, 90; Noes 120. (Division List No. 154.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, A. Acland(Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Astbury, John Meir
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauhcamp, E.
Bertram, Julius
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bramsdon, T. A.
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. A. (InvernessBurghs)
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clough, W.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down. E.)
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Davies, David(MontgomeryCo.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Forster, Henry William
Fullerton, Hugh
Glendinning, R. G.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helme, Norval Watson
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, HenryStaveley(Staff'sh.)
Hobart, Sir Robert
Houston, Robert Paterson
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Lamont, Norman
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Col.-Lt.A.R.
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Nolan, Joseph
Nuttall, Harry
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Reddy, M.
Renton, Major Leslie
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool, Walton
Soares, Ernest J.
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Turnour, Viscount
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Williamson, A.
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B.Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Ashton and Mr. Rose.

NOES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barnard, E. B.
Benn, John Williams(Devonp't
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.)
Billson, Alfred
Boland, John
Brace, William
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Cleland, J. W.
Cogan, Denis J.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,EGrinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cremer, William Randal
Crosfield, A. H.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Devlin, Chas.Ramsay (Galway)
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Essex, R. W.
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gulland, John W.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazelton, Richard
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Emslie John
Hudson, Walter
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Joyee, Michael
Kelley, George D.
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah(Down, S.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Meagher, Michael
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Mooney, J. J.
Nicholls, George
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richardson, A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robinson, S.
Rowlands, J.
Seddon, J.

Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Snowden, P.
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, TheodoreC.(Radcliffe)
Thompson,J.W.H(Somerset,E.
Thorne, William
Vivian, Henry
Walsh, Stephen
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Lever and Mr. Summerbell.

Main Question again proposed.

LORD R. CECIL called attention to the position in which the House was left upon this question. He thought they had a right to demand the advice of the responsible advisers of His Majesty's Government in regard to railways, and he thought they would do well not to proceed to a final decision until that advice had been given. In order to give the House an opportunity of obtaining that advice he begged to move the adjournment of the debate.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Lord R. Cecil.*)

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER expressed his surprise that nothing had been said from the Government Benches upon this Bill. He reminded hon. Members that similar powers to those which had just been refused to this company had been given to the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway, and now, at the dictation of a particular section of the House there had just been a refusal of what had already been given to another company.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Does this question arise on the Motion for the adjournment?

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is giving reasons why the matter should be adjourned.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER thought the position taken up by the House on this matter was a most improper one. He was not opposed to municipal undertakings, but in this particular case the hon. Member for Wirral had stated that the rural districts ought to have these facilities. He thought they were now carrying the principle of municipalisation too far, and the House had already given municipalities far too much.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is now arguing against the Bill. The question is that the debate be adjourned.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER appealed to the Board of Trade to give the House some reason why they had not given the House some direction in this matter.

MR. CLEMENT EDWARDS (Denbigh District), on a point of order, pointed out that it was already laid down in the Bill that there was to be no appeal to the Board of Trade, and under those circumstances he wished to know if there was any rule which necessitated the presence of the President of the Board of Trade or any other representative of that Department?

*MR. SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

MR. HARMOOD-BANNER thought the House ought to be told why a difference was made between one railway company and another in the granting of these facilities.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY, Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) said it was very desirable that the House should come to a decision upon this matter now. He regretted the absence of any representative of the Board of Trade, but there were a large number of hon. Members present who were quite as able to deal with these matters as the Board of Trade, and it would only be penalising the company to adjourn the debate.

MR. FORSTER (Kent, Sevenoaks) said the question which had been brought before the House was whether or not on occasions like this when large questions of principle were raised, with which the Board of Trade were intimately associated, a representative of the Board of Trade ought or ought not to be present in order to give to the House the benefit of his guidance. In days not long ago when some hon. Members opposite were in Opposition, whenever they discovered the absence of any representative of a Government department they never lost the opportunity of moving the adjournment of the debate, or of taking advantage of any other opportunity of calling attention to what they called a grave dereliction of duty on the part of the Government. They were now concerned with a large question of principle. They were entitled to receive the opinion and guidance of the responsible Minister concerned, and seeing that there was no representative of the Board of Trade in the House, he thought they might very well agree to the motion for the adjournment.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) said that it was by the initiative of His Majesty's advisers that these private Bills had been brought up at a time when most hon. Members opposite would like to be in bed. He did not think that any private Bill ought to be dealt with after midnight, and without expressing any opinion as to the merits of the case he protested against dealing with private legislation in the absence of the responsible Minister who was paid to be present and attend to this business.

Mr. TOMKINSON said that although he deprecated the carrying of this Instruction he hoped the House would allow the Bill to be proceeded with.

Lord TURNOUR (Sussex, Horsham) said hon. Members opposite had quite misinterpreted their action in moving the adjournment of the debate. They had not taken this course in regard to this particular Bill, but in order to call attention to the absence of any representative of the Board of Trade when an important principle was being discussed. He thought the argument of the Patronage Secretary that the Bill could be discussed as well in the absence of the representatives of the Board of Trade was an extraordinary one. He appealed to the House to support the Motion for the adjournment.

*Mr. SHACKLETON said he did not rise for the purpose of obstructing the Bill. The question raised was an important one, namely, the absence of a representative of the Board of Trade. He was going to support the Motion on that ground alone. In the last Parliament when a Unionist Government was in office he had supported similar Resolutions on the ground of the absence of the Minister in charge. This was an important matter, and they were entitled to the opinion of the Board of Trade upon it. He earnestly urged those who were responsible for the Bill to accept the Motion for the adjournment of the debate, in order that an opportunity might be given for ascertaining the opinion of the President of the Board of Trade upon the matter. If the Bill did not go through to-night, the fault would lie with the representatives of the Board of Trade who were not present to answer the reasonable questions which had been raised.

Mr. W. H. LEVER appealed to hon. Members opposite to allow the Bill to go through to-night. The Bill would go to a Committee upstairs, and he thought the expression of opinion which had taken place as to the absence of the representatives of the Board of Trade would be just as effective as if they were to penalise the measure. The Bill was of importance to the district concerned, and if it was not allowed to go through to-night the fixing of another date for debating the Motion might mean that it could not be passed this session.

Colonel LOCKWOOD said he was in favour of the Bill and wished to see it passed, but he thought a representative of the Board of Trade should be present to answer questions. The Patronage Secretary was to blame for this. He was paid a handsome salary to see that Ministers were in their places when they were wanted. It was on account of their absence that the adjournment of the debate had been moved.

MR. VIVIAN (Birkenhead) appealed to hon. Members opposite to allow the Bill to go through to-night. Important commercial interests were at stake, and the Bill had been discussed on more than one occasion. It was not fair to the company to hang up its interests because of some failure on the part of the Board of Trade to have representatives present.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) said the adjournment of the debate would not in any way injure the company, or hinder the progress of the Bill. The adjournment of the debate would only delay the discussion of the Instruction for one night. To-morrow night the House would get the opinion of the Board of Trade as to whether it was advisable to give such an Instruction to the Committee.

MR. W. H. LEVER rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the question be now put."

Question, "That the Question be now put," put, and agreed to.

Question put accordingly, "That the debate be now adjourned."

The House divided :—Ayes, 34 ; Noes, 153. (Division List, No. 155.)

AYES.

Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beauchamp, E.
Bertram, Julius
Boyle, Sir Edward
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Davies, David(MontgomeryCo.
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gill, A. H.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Morrell, Philip
Renton, Major Leslie
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Shackleton, David James
Sutherland, J. E.
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Watt, H. Anderson
Williamson, A.
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Lord Robert Cecil and Colonel Lockwood.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Benn,John Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.)
Billson, Alfred
Boland, John
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brunner, J. F.L.(Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J.A.(InvernessBurghs)
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Corbett,C.H. (Sussex,E.Grinstd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cremer, William Randal
Crosfield, A. H.
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, T. R.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fullerton, Hugh
Ginnell, L.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Emslie John
Hudson, Walter
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael
Kelley, George D.
Kilbride, Denis
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Lever, A.Levy (Essex,Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Macdonald, J. M.(FalkirkB'ghs
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Meager, Michael
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza

Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Nicholls, George
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richardson, A.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robinson, S.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, Herbert L.(Clevland)
Seddon, J.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shpiman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soares, Ernest J.
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor,TheodoreC.(Radcliffe)
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Tomkinson, James
Vivian, Henry
Walsh, Stephen
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Lever and Mr. Summerbell.

MR. VIVIAN claimed, "That the Main Question be now put."

Main Question put accordingly.

The House divided :—Ayes, 149 ; Noes, 35. (Division List, No. 156.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork,N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Anisworth, John Stirling
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P, (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Astbury, John Meir
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beauchamp, E.
Benn,JohnWilliams(Devonp'rt
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Billson, Alfred
Boland, John
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cleland, J. W.
Cogan, Denis J.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinstd)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cremer, William Randal
Crosfield, A. H.
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay(Galway)
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazelton, Richard
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Emslie John
Hudson, Walter
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneation)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael
Kelley, George D.
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs)
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston
Marnham, F, J.
Meagher, Michael
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Nicholls, George
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pollard, Dr.
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richardson, A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)

Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robinson, S.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Soares, Ernest J.
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor,TheodoreC.(Radcliffe)
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Vivian, Henry
Walsh, Stephen
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Lever and Mr. Summerbell.

NOES.

Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Beale, W. P.
Bertram, Julius
Bryce, J.A.(Inverness Burghs)
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Clough, W.
Corbett, A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Davies, David(MontgomeryCo.
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley(Staff'sh.)
Kilbride, Denis
Lamont, Norman
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Lupton, Arnold
Magnus, Sir Philip
Paulton, James Mellor
Reddy, M.
Renton, Major Leslie
Ridsdale, E. A.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Turnour, Viscount
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Williamson, A.
Wortley, Rt.Hon.C.B. Stuart-

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Watson Rutherford and Mr. Mitchell-Thomson.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill, that they shall provide that the Wirral Railway Company shall not run any omnibus in any city, borough, or other urban district provided with a system of tramways or omnibuses except with the consent of the local authority or local authorities, as the case may be, working such tramways or omnibuses.—(*Mr. William Lever.*)

MUSICAL COPYRIGHT BILL.

Order for the House to be again put into Committee read.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said that before any hon. Member objected he should like to make a statement. The hon. Member for Loughboro' had asked him to put in a proviso excluding perforated music from the operation of the Bill, and he had consented to do so. He had also consented that if the House would give him that stage that night to give further consideration to any suggested Amendments.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.) in the Chair.

Clause 1:—

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL, Yorkshire, Cleveland) moved an Amendment standing in the name of the Home Secretary.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 6, to leave out the word 'music' and insert the words 'copies of any musical work, or has in his possession any plates for the purpose of printing or reproducing pirated copies of any musical work'."—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'music' stand part of the clause."

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said he accepted the Amendment.

Question put, and negatived.

Question proposed, "That the words 'copies of any musical work, or has in his possession any plates for the purpose of printing or reproducing pirated copies of any musical work' be there inserted."

*MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) thought the Bill ought to be discussed. The matter was of considerable importance, and he did not understand why it should be passed through without debate.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY asked whether it was in order for an hon. Member to make a speech at this period of the evening.

Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL appealed to the hon. Member to allow the Bill to proceed. The Government were very anxious that it should pass with necessary Amendments.

*Mr. LUPTON said he thought the Bill was a highly discreditable one for the Government to pass.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR said the Amendment he had accepted was purely of a verbal character and the hon. Gentleman's point could be raised on the next Amendment when he would endeavour to meet him.

*Mr. LUPTON said he was perfectly willing to meet the hon. Gentleman and discuss the measure with him, but he had already made one or two suggestions with which the hon. Gentleman had not agreed. He was anxious to defend the rights of all, the music publisher, the composer, the public, and the agents.

Mr. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) appealed to the hon. Member to let the Bill go through this stage.

*Mr. LUPTON said if the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill wanted him to withdraw his opposition he would meet him and discuss the matter and try and make the Bill one that would be a credit to the House.

*The DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. Member object to its proceeding or not?

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR objected most strongly to such a Question being put from the Chair.

*The DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said it was a perfectly proper Question to ask and was a question frequently asked by Mr. Speaker. If there was any objection, discussion must end.

*Mr. LUPTON stated that he did object to proceeding with the Bill, and that he had said so at the opening of his remarks and all along.

And, it being after Eleven of the clock on Tuesday evening, and objection being taken to further proceeding, the Deputy-Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

On Mr. Speaker taking the Chair—

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR said he wished to call attention to a question of order which had just arisen. An hon. Member opposite was suggesting some reason why the Bill under discussion should be more carefully considered, and he (Mr. O'Connor) was prepared to answer the hon. Member when the hon. Gentleman occupying the Chair for the moment on his own initiative asked the hon. Member whether he objected to the progress of the Bill or not, practically putting the suggestion into the mouth of the hon. Member.

Mr. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.) asked, before Mr. Speaker replied, whether it was in order for the Chairman to leave the Chair without progress being reported.

*Mr. SPEAKER said he was not a Court of Appeal from either the Chairman or Deputy-Chairman of Committees. He was quite sure the Deputy-Chairman acted impartially when in the Chair. What he understood the proper practice to be was that after eleven o'clock opposed business could not be taken. The Question was, was the Bill opposed or not. If an hon. Member said he opposed, the Bill could not proceed. He believed he had been guilty himself of putting the Question, "Do you object?"

Committee report Progress. To sit again this day.

INCLOSURES (COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND).

Return ordered, "showing (1) the number of Inclosures of common land made under the Inclosures Acts from 1845 to 1899 in the County of Cumberland; (2) list of parishes within which such lands are wholly or partly situate; (3) total acreage of such Inclosures; (4) average acreage of such Inclosures."—(*Mr. Fullerton.*)

And, it being after half-past Eleven of the clock on Tuesday evening, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at three minutes after One o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 27th June, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Hampstead Garden Suburb Bill. As amended, considered. Ordered, That Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and that the Bill be now read the third time.—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

Bill accordingly read the third time, and passed.

Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Hull and Barnsley Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill [Lords]: As amended, considered; an Amendment made; Bill to be read the third time.

Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Sheffield District Railway Bill [Lords]. As amended, to be considered upon Friday.

Trent Navigation Company Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill [Lords]; Dover Corporation Bill [Lords]; Folkestone and District Electricity Supply Bill [Lords]; Portsmouth Water Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [Lords]. To be read a second time to-morrow.

Truro Gas Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Penllwyn Railway and Road Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

ADVERTISEMENTS REGULATION BILL.

Petition from Wandsworth, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; from Cradley; Ferring; Gonalston; Kingston (Sussex); Preston, East; Tuck Hill, Alveley; Warleggan; Warnham; and Wimbledon; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; from Aldershot; Bolton (two); Criftins (two); Ellesborough (two); Facit (two); Martindale; North Ockendon; Sanderstead; Shawforth (two); and, Tardebigge; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (PROVISION OF MEALS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions from Glasgow, against; to lie upon the Table.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Petitions for alteration of Law; from Bristol; and, Leicester; to lie upon the Table.

MUNICIPAL POWERS BILL.

Petition from Cheltenham, against; to lie upon the Table.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petitions for alteration; from Bristol, East; Brixton (two); Carmarthen and Llanelly (two); Glasgow; Harrow; Lancaster; Midlothian (two); Preston (two); Walthamstow; Wanstead; West Sussex; and, Wimbledon; to lie upon the Table.

STREET BETTING BILL.

Petition from Wandsworth, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

STREET BETTING BILL [LORDS].

Petition from Wandsworth, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

SUNDAY TRADING (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Paper [presented 26th June] to be printed. [No. 217.]

MALTA.

Copy presented, of Correspondence between the Governor and the Archbishop-Bishop of Malta in regard to the holding of Protestant Mission Services at the Theatre Royal, Malta [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Clergy Discipline Act. Copy of Additional Rules under the Clergy Discipline Act, 1892, dated 25th June, 1906 [by Act].

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Poisons and Pharmacy Bill—Suggested Reference to a Select Committee.

MR. WINFREY (Norfolk, S.W.): To ask the Prime Minister whether, having regard to the fact that, in addition to the Government Poisons and Pharmacy Bill, there is in the House another Bill for amending the Pharmacy Acts, and that both Bills are objected to in their present form, he will arrange for the two Bills to be referred to a Select Committee, so that a full investigation of the subject matter of the Bills may be assured.

Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.) My right hon. friend has asked me to answer this Question. I do not think there is any need to refer the two Bills to a Select Committee. The points needing detailed investigation have already been fully considered by a Departmental Committee, and the facts relating to the questions arising on Clause 4 of the Poisons and Pharmacy Bill are already fully known and do not require further investigation by a Committee.

Publication of Evidence of Committee on Accounts of Local Authorities.

MR. RADFORD (Islington, E.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will cause the Proceedings and Minutes of Evidence already taken by the Departmental Committee on the Accounts of Local Authorities to be printed and published during the Parliamentary recess; and if he will subsequently arrange that representatives of the Press be admitted to any future sittings of the Committee.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) It rests with the Committee to determine on their procedure, and I understand that they decided, at their first meeting, that it would be undesirable to publish the evidence taken by them until the conclusion of their inquiry, or to admit representatives of the Press to their meetings.

Transvaal Law Affecting Trustees and Estate Duty.

MR. GROVE (Northamptonshire, S.): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that, on the death of a trustee in the Transvaal of English domicile, succession and estate duty is levied, although no change in the beneficial enjoyment of the property is involved; and whether he will take steps to bring about an alteration in the laws affecting trusts, and so remove the disabilities under which English subjects holding property in the Transvaal suffer.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) I believe that it is the practice in the Transvaal to levy duty in the circumstances described by the hon. Member. I will communicate with the Governor upon the matter.

Translation into Chinese of Government Proclamations.

MR. ESSEX (Gloucestershire, Cirencester): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the differences in the dialects used at the various ports of the Chinese Empire from which coolies have been and are being recruited into South Africa, and that a proclamation in literary Chinese or any one of the various Chinese local dialects would probably be unintelligible to many of the labourers, even when such are at all able to read, he will have steps taken to insure that the intentions of the Imperial Government are clearly understood by the coolies.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) Inquiry will be made as to what further steps may be necessary to ensure that the coolies understand the offer made to them.

Attacks on Jews in Russia.

MR. STRAUS (Tower Hamlets, Mile End): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he could see his way to instruct the British Ambassador at St. Petersburg to report fully as soon as possible upon the circumstances of the recent attacks on the Jews in Russia; and whether such Report could be presented to the House at an early date.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) It would not be desirable that such Reports should be published by His Majesty's Government.

British Insurance Companies and Mortgages on Irish Land.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will issue instructions and call upon all British insurance companies holding mortgages on Irish land to submit particulars as to these mortgages, the conditions, the amounts, and the rate of interest charged.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) This information is not required to be shown by the companies in their statutory Returns to the Board of Trade, and the Board have no power under the Life Assurance Companies Acts to call for it.

Protection of Life Insurance Policy Holders.

MR. FIELD: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state what steps the Government intend to take respecting the action of the trustees and the governing bodies of insurance companies for the protection of their policy holders.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The Life Assurance Companies Acts do not give the Board of Trade any powers with regard to the trustees or governing bodies of insurance companies, and, as at present advised, I have no intention of initiating fresh legislation for the purpose.

Brakes on Electric Cars.

MR. T. DAVIES (Fulham): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been drawn to the accident which occurred to an electric tram-car near Highgate Archway on Saturday last, resulting in the death of several persons; and whether, in view of similar accidents of late to cars on steep gradients, he will consider the advisability of instituting an inquiry in order that he may, if he thinks necessary, make more stringent regulations as to brakes of cars running over very steep gradients such as this.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) An inquiry into this sad accident will be held on behalf of the Board of Trade by the chief inspecting officer of railways, and the Question to which my hon. friend draws attention will certainly receive very careful consideration.

Damage to Crops by Motor Traffic.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the President of the Local Government Board what steps he intends taking in order to abate the damage to crops and nuisance to the public resulting from motor traffic upon through roads, such as that leading from Shrewsbury to the Welsh coast.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I have received complaints as to the damage and nuisance caused by the dust raised by motor cars, and I have communicated them to the Royal Commission on Motor Cars for their consideration.

Water Supply for Cottages at Baily Hill, Birdbrook, Essex.

MR. C. E. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he has been able to ascertain from the Bumpstead Rural District Council whether they have exhausted their powers under The Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, in the unsuccessful attempt made by them to secure a proper supply of water for the nine cottages at Baily Hill, Birdbrook, Essex, whose sole supply at present consists of polluted pond water; and whether, if this be the case, he will consider the advisability of introducing some amendment of the law affecting rural water supplies.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I have received from the rural district council a copy of the Report made by the medical officer of health on this subject. I understand that there is a well within 200 yards of the cottages from which the occupiers might obtain water, but that there are certain difficulties in their using the well, and there is the quality of the water to be considered. I am still in communication with the rural district council on the matter.

Education Bill—Government Amendments to Clause 6.

MR. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University): To ask the President of the Board of Education when he will publish his Amendments to Clause 6 of the Education Bill.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) My undertaking was that the Committee should be left perfectly free to decide whether Clause 6 should remain as in the Bill, or should be altered so as to require the attendance at the schoolhouse of every child during the time allotted to religious instruction. This will be done either upon one of the Amendments already on the Paper or upon some other Amendment which will effect the purpose.

Education Bill—Financial Proposals.

MR. RAWLINSON: To ask the President of the Board of Education when he will publish the rules for the distribution of the million pounds referred to in Clause 12 of the Education Bill, and promised by him on 12th May last.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) It was by an oversight in my office, for which I express regret, that the hope was expressed by me (it was not a promise, as the hon. Member suggests), on 10th May† that the regulations for the distribution of the £1,000,000 under Clause 12 of the Bill would be issued very shortly; it was due to an inadvertent confusion of that matter with the regulations then being drafted in respect of the other new grant for necessitous areas, which were issued a few days later. I am unable to-day to make any statement in regard to the distribution of the £1,000,000. It will necessarily be affected to a certain extent by the decision arrived at only yesterday in this House, that local authorities may, in defined circumstances, be relieved of the duty of maintaining a certain limited number of schools, and will also be precluded from taking any financial burden (which might have occurred under the Bill as introduced) in respect of certain other schools in the shape of payments for rent.

Dismissed Employees Trading in Opposition to their late Employers—Suggested Legislation.

MR. HODGE (Lancashire, Gorton): To ask Mr. Attorney-General whether his attention has been called to cases recently decided, enforcing agreements restraining canvassers and other employees from following after they have left their employment by summary dismissal or otherwise a similar calling within a wide area round large and important towns in the north of England; and whether he will consider the advisability of introducing legislation to deal with this matter.

(*Answered by Sir Lawson Walton.*) My attention has been called to the cases referred to. The rule of law provides that the Court shall say whether the restriction upon the further employment of a canvasser, or other agent, after the end of his service is greater than is reasonably necessary for the protection of the employer whose service he has left. This is, in my opinion, sound, but the application of the rule may vary in different cases; and if the decisions of the County Courts or other tribunals are unsatisfactory, there is a remedy by appeal. I do not think there is necessity for further legislation.

Donegal County Council and Army Meat Contracts.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has received a resolution from the Donegal County Council protesting against the change recently made in the Army meat tender form, under which contractors can supply foreign meat killed at the port of disembarkation instead of native home-bred meat, which was guaranteed by the late Government some years ago, and also protesting against the feeding of Army horses on foreign oats, straw and hay, and calling upon the Secretary of State for War to reconsider his decisions on these subjects in the interests of the taxpayers, ratepayers and employers of the three kingdoms; what reply has he given to this resolution; and what steps, if any, does he propose to take to fulfil official promises which have been violated by the new arrangements.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 1479.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The resolution mentioned has been received and acknowledged. It is not proposed to depart from the decisions in regard to these matters which have been already communicated to the House.

Tidworth Barracks—Scavenging Tenders.

MR. MORSE (Wilts, Wilton): To ask the Secretary of State for War what is the meaning of Clause 3 of the form of tender for scavenging, issued for 26th August, 1903, at Tidworth Barracks; is the contractor entitled to be paid the scheduled price on the basis of the number of men for the accommodation of whom the barracks were constructed, or must it be calculated on the number of men actually in the barracks.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Under the contract referred to, the contractor is entitled to receive payment on the number of men in barracks, irrespective of the number the barracks are constructed to hold. Clause 3, which formed part of the contract in force prior to 1903, was inadvertently retained in the new one. If this clause was considered binding, the first part of it would reduce the rate now payable to one-half, a result clearly unacceptable to the contractor. I may add that the schedule of the contract clearly showed that the tender was for the removal of rubbish, etc., at so much per 100 men per month.

Government Writers' Wages at Weedon.

MR. GROVE: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, if it is at present necessary to make a distinction between the pay of the writers in the Government stores at Pimlico and at Weedon, though the work carried out in each locality is practically the same, he can see his way to grant an annual increment in each case, especially in view of the fact that the rents at Weedon, since 1902, have increased more than 20 per cent.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) An application for increase of pay at Weedon has been received and is under consideration.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Admiralty Flag List.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can see his way to publishing the Report of the Committee presided over by Lord Goschen in 1902, which Lord Selborne informed Parliament was to assist the Admiralty in devising a remedy for the absence from the Flag List of a due proportion of younger officers.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): The question of the publication of the report of Lord Goschen's Committee has been decided on several occasions by previous Boards of Admiralty in the negative. The present Board do not intend to reverse the decision of their predecessors.

MR. BELLAIRS: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that Lord Selborne twice intimated to Parliament an intention to reduce the age for promotion, while he himself said yesterday it had been raised for senior officers?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I do not remember anything about Lord Selborne's statement and I did not mean to intimate that the age had been raised.

Discharges from Woolwich Arsenal.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War how many, if any, men it is proposed to discharge from the Arsenal, Woolwich, and why are notices being served upon men of long service who have been working three-quarter time for six months; is it possible to say when the men will resume full time again, in view of the amount taken in the Estimates for the year.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddingtonshire): It is difficult at the present moment to estimate the number of discharges which will be necessary but it is hoped that they will not exceed 320 men and boys. The least efficient men will be discharged first. In many cases with long service men there is no suitable work on which they can be employed, and their discharge is consequently unavoidable. It is not clear to which shop the latter part of the question refers, but in the shell factory there is no present prospect of resuming full time.

Fourth Battalion Worcestershire Regiment.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War on what date the 4th Battalion Worcestershire Regiment left Egypt.

MR. HALDANE: This battalion left Egypt on the 9th June.

British Central Africa—Labour Contracts.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether it is proposed to introduce any method of enforcing contracts for labour in British Central Africa otherwise than by a civil suit under the existing law.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): The question whether magistrates shall not be given power to inflict penalties on natives for breach of contract, similar to those exercised by magistrates in some of the South African colonies, is under the consideration of the Commissioner whose recommendations will be submitted for the approval of the Secretary of State.

Canadian Emigration Bounties.

MR. HAZLETON (Galway, N.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will inquire from the Canadian Government how long its system of paying £1 per head to shipping agents in Ireland for emigrants to Canada has been in force; what is the total amount of money that has been expended in this way in Ireland by the Canadian Government; and whether the Canadian Government will supply information as to the names and addresses of those shipping agents in Ireland to whom it has paid any such money during the past five years.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Canadian Government will be asked for the information which the hon. Member desires to obtain.

Ceylon Pearl Fisheries.

MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can explain the circumstances under which the late Colonial Secretary, on December 1st, 1905, on the eve of the general election, sent to the Governor of Ceylon a Draft Ordinance, prepared by himself, sanctioning the lease of the pearl fisheries for twenty years at an annual rental of £20,666 to a London Company, and expressing the hope that the Legislative Council would pass the Ordinance; whether it is usual to exercise such pressure in a matter of purely domestic concern to the Colony and in no way of an Imperial character; why the Ordinance was not left to be prepared and published in the ordinary way by the responsible authorities in the Colony; why the words with the advice * * * of the Legislative Council were inserted in the Preamble to the Ordinance, seeing that the Legislative Council do not appear to have been asked for nor to have given advice, and, seeing that only the official Executive Council were consulted, why the lease was antedated January 1st, 1906, although the Ordinance was not passed till February 27th; and whether this antedating has resulted in the surrender of over £30,000 of Colonial revenue to the lessees; how it is that, although tenders for the concession were not invited and no official publicity was given to it, a number of persons of various nationalities interested in the Transvaal gold mines were enabled to learn of the value of the concession and to obtain shares in it.

MR. CHURCHILL: The correspondence presented to Parliament shows that the late Secretary of State forwarded a draft of the lease to the Governor on

October 4th last, when he stated that the solicitors on both sides would now prepare a preliminary agreement and revise the draft lease from a legal point of view. This was done, and the documents were sent out on December 1st. The reasons for expressing the hope that the Legislative Council would pass the measure are given in the despatch itself, and the Secretary of State does not consider that any undue pressure was put on the Council. A condition of the provisional agreement was that the lease should be confirmed by a special Ordinance to be passed in the terms set out in a schedule to the agreement. The draft of the Ordinance was, therefore, necessarily prepared in this country. The words are a necessary part of any legislative enactment. It was expected that a decision would be taken before the beginning of this year's fishery, but it was understood throughout the negotiations that, if this should prove impracticable, the fishery of 1906 would be conducted by the Government on account of the syndicate. The Ceylon Government informed the Legislature on the Second Reading of the Ordinance that if it was passed, the lease would be antedated to January 1st, 1906. I may add that this arrangement enables the company to have the advantage of earlier possession of the lease, which will terminate a year earlier. The allotment of shares in the company is a matter which concerns the directors, and the Secretary of State can obviously have no information as to the advantages which enabled or the reasons which induced any particular individuals to apply for shares.

MR. SMEATON asked why was such secrecy observed throughout the negotiations down to the end of 1905; how was it that the people of the colony only ascertained that the lease was about to be granted through rumours in circulation; and why at the Third Reading of the Bill was discussion of the details of the lease not permitted?

MR. SPEAKER said notice should be given of Questions on matters of detail.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.) asked whether Sir West Ridgeway took any part in the negotiations during the term of his Governorship.

MR. CHURCHILL: I think it is unnecessary to say he took no part in the negotiations leading to this lease during the time he was Governor. More than a year elapsed between his leaving Ceylon and the granting of the lease.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said the question was—Did he utilise his knowledge obtained as Governor in arranging the lease, and was that right and proper?

[No Answer was returned.]

Pay of Officers in India.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will state in how many departments the rates of pay of the superior officers in India have been increased during the last four years; what is the number of officers in each department benefiting by the new rates; and what is the additional annual charge imposed upon the revenues of India by these increases.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): I will ask the Government of India to prepare a statement giving the information asked for.

Indian Government Appointments.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will lay upon the Table a Return showing all new posts with a salary of £400 and upwards a year, created by the Government of India during the last seven years, together with the names of the officers at present holding these appointments.

MR. MORLEY: The labour involved in preparing a Return for seven years would be very great, but I have no objection to giving lists of appointments and salaries for the last four years, as in the Return asked for in the previous Question. Owing to the changes constantly taking place in the *personnel* list of the names of the officers holding the appointments would be of slight value, and I do not propose to include them. Lists are periodically published from which they may be ascertained.

Indian Excise Administration.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the Excise Administration in India has been considered by the Government of India; and whether this Report, with a summary of the evidence, will be circulated to Members of Parliament before the debate upon the Indian Budget.

Mr. MORLEY: I have ascertained from the Government of India that the Report has not yet reached them, and that it is now not expected to be ready until at earliest the end of July.

Public Processions in Bengal.

Dr. RUTHERFORD (Middlesex, Brentford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that, acting under the recent circular of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, which revokes the orders prohibiting the cry of "Bande Materam," but authorises the police to require by general and special notice that licences should be taken for processions in public places, the district superintendent of police of Rungpore has issued a notice that licences are to be taken for every procession and every meeting to be held in a public place; and whether in view of the pledges given to this House restoring to the people of the province the right of public processions and public meetings, subject only to interference to stay actual or imminent breaches of the peace, he proposes to take any action in the matter.

Mr. MORLEY: The special restrictions on processions having been withdrawn, the instructions of the Local Government are that licences under the ordinary law should not be withheld unless there is a serious risk of disturbance of public tranquillity. I have no information as to the case described in the Question, but I will take whatever steps may appear to me necessary to ensure that these instructions are not disregarded.

*Mr. REES: Was not the cry "Bande Mataram" originally assigned as a war cry to the Hindoo Sanyasis who rose against the Government in Bengal, and is not its use therefore likely to induce breaches of the peace between Hindoos and Mahomedans?

Mr. MORLEY: I do not know the origin of the phrase, but I will inquire.

The Partition of Bengal.

*Mr. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will lay upon the Table any despatch or papers which will illustrate the difficulties with which the Government of the new province of Eastern Bengal has had to contend in consequence of the different attitude towards the creation of that province evinced by a section of the Hindus, who are the minority, and by the Mahomedans, who are the majority of the population.

Mr. MORLEY: As soon as I receive full official reports on this subject, for which I have telegraphed to the Government of India, I will at once consider the question of laying Papers on the Table.

Estate Duties.

Mr. SEARS (Cheltenham): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what other duties than the formal business connected with estate duties are performed at probate registries; and what there is in such duties which collectors of Inland Revenue and their staff would not be competent to undertake.

I beg further to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been drawn to the annual cost of the Government Estate Duty Office at Somerset House, which is £97,367, and to the fact that under the same roof, and subject to private patronage, there is the Principal Probate Registry, at an annual cost of £34,956, with officials not responsible to the Government; that in the latter office there is one registrar, at a salary of £1,600 a year, and two others, with salaries rising to £1,500 a year; that only routine duties are performed, which are more highly paid than in the Estate Duties Office, where the real work is done, the head of which is in receipt of £1,200 a year; will he inquire into the matter and take steps to end the Probate Registry and to effect a saving of public money.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): I would ask my hon. friend to allow me to reply to the two Questions as one. The duties of the Registrars and other officers of the Principal Probate Registry are absolutely distinct from those of the officers of the Estate Duty Office and necessitate considerable technical knowledge of the law. The duties include dealing with applications for representations to the estates of deceased persons, which involve questions of validity of wills, domicile and foreign law, hearing summonses in probate actions and divorce suits, taxation of costs, passing administrators' and receivers' accounts, and dealing with references as to alimony, variation of settlements and ownership of property under the Married Women's Property Acts, and completion of Orders made by the Court. The officers in the District Probate Registries have similar duties as to application for grants of probate in the district registries.

MR. SEARS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has any official information showing that the examination of estate affidavits, at headquarters, and the disregard of local knowledge possessed by Revenue officers, is responsible for leakage of revenue, especially in a case in which duty was paid on £132,300 in 1898, in respect of an estate which, in 1900, was floated with a capital of £450,000, when profits were sufficient to pay all preference charges and give 8 per cent. to ordinary shareholders and to provide for a reserve fund; will he say what inquiry was made at the time in this case, in which the loss to the revenue appears to have been something like £20,000; will he say whether the sum of £450,000 represents the whole value of the estate in question; if not, what was the declared value of the remainder; what inquiry was made in respect of it; how such inquiry came about, and what was the result; and will he cause inquiries to be made as to whether there have been any other cases of inaccurate Returns to which the attention of the department has been drawn.

MR. ASQUITH: In the case to which my hon. friend refers, extreme care was taken by those responsible to arrive at a correct valuation of the estate, and full use was made of the local knowledge available. The particular item of property alluded to in the Question consisted of the interest in an enterprise of a precarious kind, the value of which lay almost entirely in good will. To determine the market value of such a property must necessarily be speculative, and it was of course impossible to foresee that a company would be formed to take over the business. This, in fact, did not occur till more than two years after the death of the owner; had the purchase been effected sooner, the valuation would have been corrected. As there appears no ground for questioning the correctness of the values assigned to the remaining items of the estate in question, I see no reason for adopting the unusual course of disclosing particulars in regard to them.

Discharges of Criminal Lunatics.

MR. MARNHAM (Surrey, Chertsey): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the recent murder at Camberley, and the propinquity of His Majesty's Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum, greater care will in future be taken to ascertain that prisoners before being discharged can, with safety to the general public, be allowed at large.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I can assure the hon. Member that there is no ground for the suggestion that there is any want of care in discharging criminal lunatics from Broadmoor. If a lunatic is confined "during His Majesty's pleasure"—so that he can be discharged only by the Secretary of State's order—the utmost care is taken (in the few cases where the question of release can be entertained at all) to ascertain that the patient's recovery is of a permanent character, and that he can be allowed at large without danger to the public. An undertaking is obtained from some trustworthy relative or other person to look after the patient and to report periodically how he is, and, if any sign of relapse is reported, the discharge is revoked and the patient brought back. There are, however, some criminal lunatics not detained during His Majesty's pleasure, but under sentence for a definite term only. These cannot, generally speaking, be detained in Broadmoor after the sentence expires; they have to be removed to local asylums and then come under the ordinary lunacy law, and I have no longer any control over their discharge, which rests with the local asylum authorities.

Tramcar Accidents.

MR. MYER (Lambeth, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the recent accident occasioned by an electric tramcar, while descending Highgate Hill, getting beyond the control of the driver, and by which three people lost their lives and many were seriously injured, and, considering the number of street accidents of daily occurrence occasioned by the ineffective brake power now employed on tramcars, he will institute an inquiry with the object of obtaining the opinions of the highest authorities on the subject, with a view to compelling the use on tramcars of the most instantaneous and efficient method of arresting the progress of a tramcar.

MR. J. HENDERSON (Aberdeenshire, W.): I beg at the same time to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state with what brake the electric car, which caused the accident at Highgate on Saturday last, was fitted; and whether the cars to which similar accidents happened at Swindon and Huddersfield this year were fitted with the same brake; and, if so, what steps he intends to take to have efficient brakes fitted to all electric cars.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (MR. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): In the case of the Huddersfield and Swindon accidents of this year and also of the Highgate accident, I am informed that the cars were fitted, in addition to the ordinary hand-brake, with modern power-brakes, in compliance with the Board's regulations. Both the Swindon and Highgate accidents are now the subject of inquiries by officers of the Board of Trade, and until their reports are received I cannot say what lessons can be learnt from them in regard to brakes; but the question will certainly receive the most careful consideration on the part of the Board and their technical advisers.

MR. MYER asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware that, according to expert evidence given in April last in reference to an accident in Goldhawk road, an electric car travelling at four miles an hour could not be stopped under forty-five feet.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he was not aware of that.

*MR. WATERLOW (Islington, N.) asked if the right hon. Gentleman was aware that the magnetic brake with which this car was fitted became inoperative when the wheels of the vehicle skidded, as probably they did in this case, and caused the accident.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said no doubt that point would be inquired into.

MR. CAIRNS (Newcastle-on-Tyne) asked whether the question of compulsory stopping places on steep gradients would be inquired into.

MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe) asked whether any use on a steep incline was made of the rail brake—a brake acting on the rail—in which the weight of the car was brought to bear on the action.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said he would call attention to both these points.

Island of Cumbrae Steamer Service.

MR. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the letter of the railway companies conducting the steamer service between the mainland of Scotland and the Island of Cumbrae, threatening the withdrawal of the steamers at the end of this month unless the present dispute as to pier dues is settled on the companies' terms; and whether, in view of the inconvenience to the public which is threatened by the withdrawal of the steamers, he will put himself in communication with the parties concerned, and suggest that the service should be continued and all matters in dispute be referred to an arbitrator to be appointed by the President of the Board of Trade.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Yes, Sir. This matter has been brought to my attention, and the Board of Trade are in communication with the companies concerned. The companies have not, however, so far consented to accept the suggestion mentioned.

Vagrancy Committee's Report.

MR. MARNHAM: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the recent murder at Camberley, and still more recent murderous attacks in the same locality, the Government are considering the desirability of giving effect to the recommendations with regard to tramps, contained in the Vagrancy Committee Report, issued earlier in the session.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): The Report of the Departmental Committee on this subject is receiving the consideration of the Government; but it will not be practicable to propose legislation with regard to it during the present session.

Education Act—School Efficiency.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education what securities, if any, it is proposed to take to secure that any school contracted-out under his Amendment to Clause 4 of the Education Bill shall not fall below the level of educational efficiency demanded of the provided schools in the same area.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): It would seem that the provisions of the Code, as, for instance, Article 25 (b), will effectually secure what the hon. Member refers to.

Contracted-out Schools.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether any school, contracted-out under his Amendment to Clause 4 of the Education Bill, would be permitted to fall back to the system of one-man management; and, if not, whether he can state what arrangements, if any, it is proposed to take in respect to the management of such school.

MR. BIRRELL: The Government are most anxious to avoid any possibility of these schools falling back into a condition of things in which their management is in the hands of one individual. It is already laid down, in Article 51 (b) of the Code, as a condition of the payment of grants, that every public elementary school, not maintained by a local education authority, must have a responsible body of managers. This Article continues in the Code, and as it will apply to the schools referred to by the hon. Member, I think adequate security is provided against the danger to which he refers.

DR. MACNAMARA: Will the local authority managers be continued in office?

MR. BIRRELL: I do not think so.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): Will the Amendments on the Paper re-establish something analogous to the old boards of management?

MR. BIRRELL: I do not think so.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): Has the right hon. Gentleman considered whether a State-aided school will be a public elementary school?

MR. BIRRELL: That is a point which I think is in doubt at the present time. If it is a public elementary school, of course the conditions of the Code will apply to it. If it is not, there may be a gap in that respect, and I should have to see that it was altered.

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University): When will the right hon. Gentleman put down his Amendment on that point?

MR. BIRRELL: I do not know; I have not made up my mind.

SIR E. CARSON: Will it be before or after the closure?

[No Answer was returned.]

Pupil Teachers' Travelling Expenses.

MR. ARMITAGE (Leeds, Central): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether a grant will be made to the county borough councils, similar to that to be made to the county councils, of £2 per year for travelling and other expenses of pupil teachers, seeing that in a scattered county borough area the costs to the pupil teachers are often in excess of those in a county area.

MR. BIRRELL: The Board are unable to accede to the suggestion of the hon. Member.

Holyrood Park.

MR. GULLAND (Dumfries Burghs): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works if when he goes to Edinburgh to inspect the Law Courts he will visit Holyrood Park, and consider whether some money can be spent in making smoother roads and in replanting with grass or whin some of the slopes, notably that below Salisbury Crags.

THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale): Yes, Sir.

Meteorological Science Grant.

MR. YOUNG (Cavan, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade what progress, if any, has been made in meteorological science in this country, within late years, to justify the Department in the expenditure of £15,000 per annum; and can he say whether in this region of occult experiment the nation is receiving good value for its money.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): The annual Reports of the Meteorological Office which are presented to Parliament contain a record of the work of the office and of the allocation of funds. The hon. Member will find in the last Report a brief history of the work of the office since it received a Parliamentary Grant. Only a comparatively small proportion of the grant is applied to experimental work, the greater part being devoted to the normal work of the office, viz., the meteorology of the ocean, forecasting and storm warning, and land meteorology. The answer to the last part of the Question is in the affirmative.

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

MR. BRANCH (Middlesex, Enfield): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, if he will give a detailed Return of all plants sent out from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, to botanic and private gardens during the past five years, together with those received in exchange and otherwise during the same period.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): I have ascertained that the preparation of the proposed Return would entail considerable labour and expense, and, as at present advised, I scarcely think that its issue would be attended with any commensurate public utility. Perhaps, however, my hon. Friend would confer with me personally on the subject.

Ecclesiastical Commissioners, South London Estate.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the hon. Member for East Bristol, as Church Estates Commissioner, whether he will say if any of the buildings recently erected by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in South London will be used for the sale of beer, wine, or spirits; and, if so, how many.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): None of the newly-erected buildings will be so used. On the other hand, one fully licensed public-house and three beer houses on the site of the new buildings have been suppressed by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the hon. Member for East Bristol, as Church Estates Commissioner, whether he will say if the Ecclesiastical Commissioners make any condition in connection with those places on their estates which are, with their assent, licensed for the sale of beer, wine, or spirits as to the non-employment as barmaids of women other than the wife or daughters of the person holding the licence; and, if not, whether they will do so in future.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: No such stipulation is made by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners nor do the Commissoners think it would be well for them to make a condition the performance of which it would not be in their power effectually to control.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the hon. Member for East Bristol, as Church Estates Commissioner, whether he will grant a Return of all public-houses and beer-houses on the estates of Ecclesiastical Commissioners, the Return to state the name and locality, the approximate value to the Commissioners, the date of the lease or of the last extension or renewal of it, and the date when the lease will expire.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: The Ecclesiastical Commissioners are not prepared to make the suggested Return.

Colonel Malone's Westmeath Estate.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that Colonel Malone's Baronstown estate, Westmeath, was inspected for sale in July, 1905; that subsequently one memorial was lodged with the Estates Commissioners with reference to trustees, and another asking certain untenanted farms to be divided among people in need of land; what causes the delay in attending to these matters; and, if collusive tenancies have been created, what are the dates of the agreements creating them.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): The Estates Commissioners inform me that the estate in question was inspected in May and June, 1905. The memorials referred to were received in February last and have been made the subject of a special report by the inspector, which report is at present under consideration. There has been no avoidable delay in dealing with this matter. The Commissioners are not aware of any cases of collusive tenancies on this estate, and it would appear from the documents lodged that in none of the cases of the non-judicial tenants were any of the tenancies created since 1901.

Irish Land Valuation—John Casey's Holdings.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the qualifications and experience of Mr. Thompson, land valuer, and the name of the person on whose recommendation he has been employed; on what ground has the Land Commission, in the case of Battersby, landlord, John Casey, tenant, Mullingar rural district, Westmeath, record No. 559, increased the area of the farm and increased the rent, notwithstanding the sworn evidence of competent valuers and of competent surveyors after a chain survey; does the law or do the rules extend to empowering the Land Commission to make a tenant pay for land he has not got; and, if not, will the true area and true rent, as ascertained by the county court, be restored.

MR. BRYCE: Mr. Thompson, who had been assistant Commissioner since May 22nd, 1890, was in 1903 appointed an assessor under the Land Act of that year as being a person of skill and experience in agriculture. He had for several years before appointment as assessor acted as appeal valuer to the Land Commission. His qualifications, when originally appointed, are stated in Parliamentary Paper No. 151 of 1902. I have no information as to the name of the person, if any, on whose recommendation he was appointed an assistant Commissioner. I am informed by the Land Commission that the particular case referred to in the Question was regularly heard on appeal and judicially decided in July, 1905, and the Commissioners hold that it would be irregular on their part to discuss the facts or evidence in such a case in answer to a Question.

MR. GINNELL: Seeing that the area was settled by the County Court Judge, will the Land Commissioners consent to a survey?

MR. BRYCE: Before answering that I must communicate with the Land Commission.

The Featherston-Whitney Estate.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland who is the purchase inspector on behalf of the Estates Commissioners in Westmeath; how soon will the Featherston-Whitney estate, Newpass, Rathowen, be inspected; and will labourers and applicants for enlargement of holdings on and adjoining the estate be informed of the date, and be seen by the inspector.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that their inspectors are not permanently assigned to districts, but are frequently changed from one district to another. The estate referred to will probably be inspected early next year. It is the practice of the inspectors to give due notice of their intended inspection to the tenants of the holdings, and also to applicants for untenanted land when they consider it necessary.

Irish Intermediate Education Board.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the action of the intermediate board in refusing to obey a Resolution of the House of Commons on a subject which the Irish people feel strongly on, and also seeing that this Board and the national board are unrepresentative and independent, he will appoint a Committee to inquire into and report on the possibility of getting a board appointed by the Irish people to manage primary, secondary, and technical education.

MR. BRYCE: Since the hon. Member gave notice of this Question, I have fully informed him of the facts in reply to a Question put by him on Monday.† It is not the case that the Board of Intermediate Education refuse to obey the Resolution of the House. I have told the hon. Member that three or four times already.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: The right hon. Gentleman has not answered the last part of my Question.

MR. BRYCE: That deals with a much larger Question.

Value of Tenant's Interest.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will get the Department of Agriculture to ascertain whether the tenant's occupation, interest, and improvements, when protected by the Land Act of 1881, have been sold at as high a price as the landlord's interest in the holding; and will the Department ascertain, for the information of this House and the guidance of the Estates Commissioners and their inspectors, what has been the average price of this tenant's property, in normal cases, in each county each year, during the last ten years, or at least since the Department was founded.

MR. BRYCE: I am not prepared to ask the Department of Agriculture to go outside its proper sphere, and undertake enquiries in connection with the Land Act of 1903, the administration of which has been assigned by Parliament to the Estates Commissioners.

Land Purchase Inspectors.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland when does he expect that the Return relating to land purchase inspectors will be ready.

MR. BRYCE: It is anticipated that this Return will be ready in the course of a few days.

Cleaver Estate, County Roscommon.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the tenants of the Cleaver estate, Lisagallon, county Roscommon, have purchased their holdings under the Act of 1903; whether the purchasers include Mr. James D. O'Connor, an extensive landlord in the county, for a large grazing farm on this estate; whether the money has been actually advanced in respect of this holding; and, if not, whether the Estates Commissioners will take into consideration the advisability of acquiring it for distribution amongst the small tenants on the estate.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that an originating application in respect of the sale of this estate was lodged in June, 1905. The advances, however, have not yet been sanctioned, nor has the estate been inspected. Amongst the purchasing tenants is Mr. J. D. O'Connor, who holds a farm of 138 acres at a judicial rent fixed in 1887. When the estate comes before the Commissioners for ruling, they will, they inform me, consider the suggestion contained in the latter part of the Question.

Great Seal of Ireland.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that the arms represented on the Great Seal of Ireland are those of England, whereas the arms represented on the Great Seals of England and Scotland are those of those countries; and if he will take the necessary steps to have the arms of Ireland, and not those of England, represented on the Irish Great Seal.

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† See Col. 605-6.

MR. BRYCE: I have referred this Question to the Lord Chancellor's Department, and am informed that prior to the Union between Great Britain and Ireland the Great Seal of Ireland was similar in general character and design to that of Great Britain, but differed from the latter by bearing the distinguishing mark of a harp crowned; and it would appear that, neither on the passing of the Act of Union nor since, has any change been made in the Great Seal of Ireland, so that this distinguishing mark still remains, although the arms which are represented on the Seal are the same. I understand that the Royal Arms cannot be altered in Ireland without a proclamation by His Majesty in Council.

Birth Certificate Fees.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a charge of 3s. 7d. is made by the clerks of unions for supplying copies of certificates of births to boys who are desirous of competing in intermediate examinations, while such certificates can be obtained for the sum of 6d. in the ordinary way; and whether, seeing that many boys were debarred from entering the intermediate examinations just held because of their parents' inability to pay the necessary fee, he will consider the advisability of abolishing it altogether in these cases.

MR. BRYCE: Superintendent registrars are entitled to charge a fee of 3s. 7d. for a certificate of birth, except in cases where special statutory provision is made for the payment of a smaller fee. Thus, in cases in which the certificate is required for any purpose connected with the elementary education, or with the employment, of a child, a fee of 6d. is payable, but the hon. Member is mistaken in thinking that certificates of birth can, in the ordinary way, be obtained for that sum. The Commissioners of Intermediate Education inform me that they would welcome any legislation which would have the effect of lowering the charge for certificates of birth for the purposes of their examinations. The question will receive the consideration of the Government when a suitable opportunity arises.

Constabulary Fund.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say what is the total amount standing to the credit of the Constabulary Force Fund; and whether, seeing that this fund only applies to members of the force who joined before 1883, and the fact that the fund is gradually dying out, he will consider the advisability of winding the fund up.

*MR. BRYCE: On March 31st, 1906, the National Debt Commissioners held £228,284, Consolidated Annuities, and £154,000, Local Loans Stock, belonging to the Benefit Branch of the Constabulary Force Fund, and at the same date the Inspector-General held a cash balance of £3,936. The benefit branch is being gradually wound up, and the surplus which may remain after its final liabilities have been discharged is to be surrendered to the Exchequer. For the details of the subject, I would refer the hon. Member to Parliamentary Paper No. 118 of 1891.

MR. SLOAN: Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the desirability of winding the fund up?

*MR. BRYCE: It is being wound up.

Ardara (Donegal) Evicted Tenant.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners are taking any and, if so, what, steps towards the restoration to his holding of Patrick Keeney, who was evicted, on June 9th, 1887, from Castledoherty, near Ardara, county Donegal, a farm which is still lying unoccupied and in which the tenant is anxious to be reinstated.

*MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they will in due course have inquiry made by an inspector into the application for reinstatement lodged by Patrick Keeney, whose former holding is stated to be unoccupied.

Irish Local Government Board—Mr. Monteith's Appointment.

MR. MEEHAN (Queen's County, Leix): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a Mr. Monteith has recently been appointed to a position in the Irish Local Government Board Office; can he say what are the necessary qualifications and salary attached to the office now held by Mr. Monteith; did he pass the Civil Service or any other examinations; what was Mr. Monteith's previous occupation; on whose recommendation was the appointment made; over how many existing officers was Mr. Monteith appointed: and if the appointment is permanent and carries a pension.

*MR. BRYCE: I am informed that Mr. Monteith was temporarily employed at a salary of £4 4s. a week, to assist the Local Government Board's inspectors in reporting on sites for labourers' cottages. The appointment of assistant to the inspectors was made in time of pressure to enable the Board to expedite the work of the inspectors. No qualifications have been prescribed for the office in question, which is only a temporary one, and does not entitle the holder to a pension. Mr. Monteith was not appointed over the head of any existing officers and was not required to pass any examination. He was previously employed as assistant private secretary to the late Chief Secretary both at the Irish Office and at the Local Government Board for England. Mr. Monteith was first employed by the Vice-President of the Board upon his personal knowledge of Mr. Monteith's capabilities.

MR. MEEHAN: Seeing that there are thousands of educated Irishmen constantly leaving the country through want of employment, will the right hon. Gentleman take care that in future these offices shall be filled by Irishmen instead of being handed over to strangers?

*MR. BRYCE said it would be dangerous to lay down any general rule. Presumably in these cases preference was given to Irishmen, but a hard and fast rule might be to the disadvantage of Irishmen so far as posts in England and Scotland were concerned.

MR. MEEHAN: But are there not thousands of Irishman qualified for this position?

*MR. BRYCE: No doubt.

MR. MEEHAN: Then why not appoint an Irishman?

Irish Land Commission Staff.

MR. MEEHAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can say if there are 207 officers on the clerical staff of the Irish Land Commission with minimum salaries from £200 to £70, maximum from £300 to £100; whether a number have over fifteen years service; whether any of these officers possessed the necessary qualifications to discharge the duties of the office to which Mr. Wilkinson, an outsider, was lately appointed; if so, and in view of the want of ability on the part of the staff, will he take steps to raise the standard of qualifying examinations for admission to the service; and can he say on whose recommendation Mr. Wilkinson was appointed, and were his qualifications tested; if so, by whom, and the date of the examination.

*MR. BRYCE: I am afraid that I cannot usefully add much to my replies to the hon. Member's Questions of May 3rd and 23rd.† The post to which reference is made is one requiring special qualifications, which Mr. Wilkinson, who is a skilled accountant of many years experience, was found to possess. Before the appointment was made, the qualifications and merits of the existing staff were fully considered, and in appointing Mr. Wilkinson I am informed that regard was had solely to the efficiency of the public service.

MR. MEEHAN: On whose recommendation was this appointment made?

*MR. BRYCE: I cannot say.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Whose poor relation is he?

Dublin Audit Dispute.

MR. JOHN ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that in the mandamus proceedings pending between the auditor of the Local Government Board and the Corporation of Dublin, the Local Government Board for Ireland are represented before the court by the same counsel as invariably appeared for that body during the past ten years, with, as junior, the son of the Attorney General for Ireland in the last

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 701; clvii., 1278.

Government; if he will say whether there was a case where, a Tory Government being in power, the Irish Local Government Board drew even one of their counsel from the opposite side; and if he can explain why, in a case of such importance as this to local bodies in Ireland, the Government passed over their own Solicitor-General.

*MR. BRYCE: In the proceedings referred to in the Question, the auditor acts quite independently of the Local Government Board, and is represented by solicitors and counsel of his own selection. The Board are not party to those proceedings, and are represented only by counsel familiar with the special work of the Board with watching briefs. There was, therefore, no occasion for asking a barrister occupying the official position of the Solicitor-General to appear in the present case. It has, I am informed, frequently happened that the Local Government Board have been represented during the past ten years by counsel holding Liberal opinions. I understand that their regular junior standing counsel holds those opinions. When cases of high importance arise, the Board secure the presence, in addition to their usual standing counsel, of the law officers, or one of them.

Miss Ffrench's Galway Estate.

MR. JOHN ROCHE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the tenants on the estate of Miss Kathleen Ffrench, of Monivea Castle, county Galway, agreed on terms of sale in April, 1905; that the request for sale was lodged with the Land Commission in October, 1905; will he say whether the estate has yet been inspected or when it will be; and what are the terms of the tenants' present liability, either to the landlord or the Land Commission.

*MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners have no information that terms of sale have been agreed upon between the landlord and tenants in this case. It is the case that the landlord, in October last, lodged a request that the Estates Commissioners should purchase the estate, and this request is at present under consideration. As no sale appears to have taken place, it is presumed that the tenants' liability to the landlord, whatever it may have been, remains unchanged.

Lord Clanricarde and his Tenants.

MR. JOHN ROCHE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that notices to quit have been served by the Marquess of Clanricarde on ten tenant farmers in Derrygoolan, a congested district of his Galway estate; whether the tenants served with notice to quit have have always paid, and are prepared to pay, their rents; and whether the Government will take any steps to protect these tenants.

I beg also to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that on the estate of the Marquess of Clanricarde, in the county of Galway, the tenantry are being harassed for old arrears of rent, accumulated through bad years long ago, and in many other ways; that on this estate the tenantry have by various devices been deprived of all the benefits intended by this House to be conferred on them by recent Irish Land Acts; whether he is aware that, in consequence of those proceedings, a condition of things exists on this estate which is a constant menace to the public peace; and whether the Government will consider the desirability of introducing a special Bill to deal with the situation at present existing on the Clanricarde estate.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have no knowledge of the facts alleged in these two Questions, and I have, therefore, no official information at my disposal which would enable me to answer the Questions. The Government have no legal power to interfere for the protection of the tenants mentioned. The hon. Member will, I think, appreciate the difficulty there would be in introducing legislation in regard to a particular estate.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) asked whether this was not a matter affecting the Land Commission rather than the Estates Commission, and why, if these people paid their rent, "this man should be allowed to upset the whole community."

Mr. BRYCE did not suppose that the Land Commission could give him any further information than the Estates Commission. Certainly they had no more power to interfere.

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.) asked whether the proper people to apply to for information were not the local police. How could a question of this kind come to the knowledge of either the Estates or the Land Commissson ?

Mr. BRYCE said that he, of course, received reports from the police as to what happened, but, as the hon. Gentleman would understand, there were serious difficulties in the way of making the police report on land conditions.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL: Are we to understand that Lord Clanricarde, his tenants being perfectly willing to pay their rents, is to be at liberty to evict ten men for no cause whatever——

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is making a speech.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL: Well, it wants a speech.

*Mr. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware that not many years ago several Unionists in Ireland suggested that a Bill should be brought in for the compulsory expropriation of Lord Clanricarde.

Mr. ROCHE wished to understand whether these tenants had no redress, and that the only remedy was their own act in the future. He warned the right hon. Gentleman——

*Mr. SPEAKER: This is not the time for speeches.

Mr. ROCHE asked if he was in order in saying——

*Mr. SPEAKER: No; I am afraid it is not in order to say anything now.

Mr. ROCHE thought he was in order in asking whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware of the consequences that might ensue from the Answer he had just given, and the inference that these tenants must rely on themselves for their own protection.

Mr. BRYCE: I am aware of this, that any disorder is the worst thing that can happen in the interests of the Irish tenants.

*Mr. KILBRIDE: What can they do ?

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that Lord Clanricarde has been called in a court of justice a standing menace to the peace of the country ?

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL: That is what he is.

*Mr. KILBRIDE: Will the right hon. Gentleman lend the forces of the Crown to evict the tenants in these cases ?

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member must give notice of that.

Mr. JOHN ROCHE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the case of John Madden, a tenant of Lord Clanricarde's, in the parish of Portuma, county of Galway; whether he is aware that John Madden had been served with an ejectment on the 28th September, 1905, and decreed that in accordance with the provisions of the Act of 1896, Madden paid two years' rent and costs on the 22nd May, 1906, and thereby stayed the ejectment, and that on the 28th May, 1906, a writ from the Superior Courts was served on Madden, claiming the year's rent and costs; and whether the Irish Government will take any steps to protect tenants from such treatment.

Mr. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have no knowledge of the matter referred to, but so far as I can judge from the documents which the hon. Member has sent for my inspection, the facts appear to be substantially as stated in the Question. The Government have no power to interfere in legal proceedings which may be taken by a landlord for the recovery of rent.

Mr. DILLON: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that this House introduced a special clause into an Act of Parliament to protect tenants on this precise information from eviction? Is not this a direct evasion of the Act?

MR. BRYCE: I have already said that the Government have no legal power to interfere.

Gethin Estate, County Sligo.

MR. P. A. MCHUGH (Sligo N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in the case of the Gethin estate, Magherow, county Sligo, a man named Michael M'Loughlin has been dismissed from a position he had held for over twenty years in connection with Ballyconnell farm, and another man named Carroll had been appointed in his place by the inspector of the Congested Districts Board; and whether in view of the dissatisfaction aroused in the district by the action of the Board's inspector, he will bring this matter under the attention of the Board, with a view to the redress of the alleged grievance.

MR. BRYCE: I have brought this question to the notice of the Congested Districts Board, who will have enquiries made into the matter referred to; and I will in due course apprise the hon. Member of the result.

Irish Herring Industry.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the fees collected for branding herrings in Scotland during the year 1905 amounted to £8,070, and that, after allowing for the cost of collection, there was a surplus of £2,627; whether he is aware that during the past twenty-four years the total proceeds of branding fees in Scotland amounted to £176,824, and that, after allowing for the cost of collection, the surplus amounted to £48,588; and whether, in view of the fact that the use of the brand has been of the greatest value for the marketing of Scotch herrings, and that through its institution a sum of nearly £50,000 has been rendered available for the improvement of the fishing industry in Scotland, he will consider the advisability of instituting a brand for Irish cured mackerel and herrings, and of utilising the Irish national trade mark for the purpose.

MR. BRYCE: The figures quoted by the hon. Member are for the year 1904, and appear to be correct. The question of establishing a brand for Irish fish has been carefully considered. Some years ago the chief mackerel curers informed the Inspectors of Fisheries that they would not adopt a Government brand. Since then a very important herring-curing trade has been established in Ireland, and I am informed, though I can hardly credit it, that Irish cured herrings fetch more than double the price of the best Scotch herrings in continental markets. Moveover, I understand that the best Scotch herrings are not branded at all. If a Government brand for Irish fish were to be paid for out of branding fees, the cost to the curers per barrel would be much greater than in Scotland, both because curing is carried on at a greater number of centres, and because herring curing and mackerel curing take place at the same season in different parts of Ireland. As at present advised, I do not think a brand for Ireland is practicable.

Luggacurran Evicted Tenants.

MR. MEEHAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware if the Estates Commissioners, through their inspector, Mr. Cunningham, have appointed Mr. Bates, civil engineer, county Down, to superintend the completion of seven cottages for evicted tenants at Luggacurran; whether, according to the terms of contract, these seven cottages should have been completed last December; whether he is aware if there are two civil engineers (one a Board of Works local inspector), inspectors under the Labourers Acts in the union of Carlow and Athy, resident in the immediate neighbourhood of Luggacurran; were either of them offered the superintendence of the seven cottages; on what grounds was the expense incurred of appointing a special civil engineer for this duty; and what are the terms of Mr. Bates's appointment, salary and expenses.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that the superintendence of the building of the houses referred to is being carried out by their permanent officials, and no special appointments have been made in connection therewith. Mr. Bates, who is one of their surveyors, is a non-pensionable officer at a salary of £120 rising to £180 with an allowance of 10s. a day when absent from home on duty. This gentleman, who is a civil engineer, has been superintending under the Commissioners' Inspector the erection of the houses in question, which will be shortly visited and reported on by the senior surveyor of the Commissioners. As to the reasons for the non-completion of the contract at the specified time, namely, March last, I beg to refer to my reply to the hon. Member's Question of 21st May.

MR. KILBRIDE: Was not the date mentioned in the contract December and not March ?

MR. BRYCE: I am not aware of that.

MR. KILBRIDE: I am.

Clanricarde Evicted Tenants.

MR. JOHN ROCHE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, upon the passing of the Land Bill of 1903, about 200 evicted tenants on the Clanricarde estate applied to the Estates Commissioners for reinstatement; how many have been, and how many have got new holdings.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received applications from 131 persons seeking reinstatement upon the estate referred to. The Commissioners have not reinstated any of these evicted tenants in their former holdings, but they have provided three of them with new holdings on a neighbouring estate.

Woodford Dog License Prosecution.

MR. JOHN ROCHE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether is aware that a man named James M'Mahon was charged on the 14th May at the Woodford petty sessions with having an unlicensed dog in his possession, and that the policeman who summoned him admitted in court that he did not see any dog in his possession, and that in addition M'Mahon and his son denied having any dog; and whether, seeing that M'Mahon was fined 2s. and the costs, the Lord Chancellor's attention will be called to the decision of the magistrates who acted on the occasion.

MR. BRYCE: I beg to refer the hon. Member to my reply to his previous Question of 28th May,† when I informed him that the sufficiency of the evidence was a matter for the magistrates, and that I could not undertake to discuss the details of the case. I do not think that any good purpose would be served by calling the Lord Chancellor's attention to the matter. The judicial decisions of magistrates can only be reviewed by courts of law.

MR. JOHN ROCHE: The man never had a dog at all.

Irish Lunacy Grant.

MR. COGAN (Wicklow, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the capitation grant to lunatic asylums in Ireland is not paid to the county councils until the year following that in respect of which the expenditure is made, and that owing to the change in the local financial year the asylum committees were obliged to issue demands to the county councils for fifteen months cost of maintenance of pauper lunatics from 1st January, 1899, to 31st March, 1900; is he aware that a capitation grant was paid in the year 1901 in respect of twelve months service only, from 1st April, 1899, to 31st March, 1900, and no more than a year's grant has since been paid in respect of the subsequent annual service; and in view of the fact that the county councils were obliged to make good the difference of three months' gap, will he see that the councils are recouped from the local taxation account.

MR. BRYCE: The capitation grant to lunatic asylums in Ireland is paid to the county councils in the year following that in respect of which the expenditure is made on which the amount of the grant is calculated, but the grant is applicable in relief of the rates in the year in which it is actually paid. It is the fact that owing to the change in the local financial year the Asylum Committees were obliged to issue demands to the county councils for fifteen months cost of maintenance of pauper lunatics from 1st

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† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 83.

January, 1899, to 31st March, 1900. It is also the fact that the capitation grant paid in the year 1901 was in respect of of twelve months' service from 1st April, 1899, to 31st March, 1900, and that no more than a year's grant has since been paid in respect of the subsequent annual service. The year's grant paid in 1901 corresponded to the year's grant paid in previous years, the only difference made by the change in the financial year in 1899 being that instead of taking the calendar year as the basis of the grant as had been done previously, the financial year ending 31st March was taken as the basis. I have already informed the hon. Member that as in each year a full year's payment has been made from the Local Taxation Account, no recoupment to county councils is possible.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN (Cork) drew attention to the fact that the name of the hon. Member for Mid Cork had not been included among those of the hon. Members added to the Standing Committee on Law to consider the Irish Labourers' Bill. He remarked that the hon. Member was President of the Irish Land Labourers' Association, and was really the only Member elected to the House to represent that class. Obviously if they were to have a voice in discussing the proposed Amendments to the Bill, they ought to have their spokesman on the Committee, and he wished to know how the omission could be remedied.

*MR. SPEAKER said the duty of appointing additional Members rested with the Committee of Selection, and it would be undesirable for the House, seeing that it had entrusted that responsible and important duty to the Committee, now to take it out of their hands. In making additions the Committee's duty was to have regard to the special qualifications and capabilities of the Members whom they put on. The hon. Member might approach the Chairman of the Committee of Selection, who in the event of a vacancy occurring might fill it in the way desired by the hon. Member.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN: Thank you, Sir. I will act on that suggestion.

Dissemination of News in War Time.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether his attention has been called to the meeting of representative journalists and newspaper proprietors, held at the Royal United Service Institution on the 21st inst., at which there was a unanimous expression of opinion in favour of restricting or controlling the dissemination of news in time of war, and at which a Committee was authorised to confer with the Committee of Imperial Defence, and to consider any Bill that might be drafted with this object in view; and if he can hold out any hopes that His Majesty's Government will be in a position to introduce a Bill dealing with this subject at an early date.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): The question of restricting the dissemination of news in time of war is being considered by the Committee of Imperial Defence. His Majesty's Government hope to deal with it early next year.

MR. ARTHUR LEE asked if the right hon. Gentleman would consider the desirability of introducing a Bill—not necessarily for passing this session—at as early a date as possible, that the Press might have the opportunity it desired of giving careful consideration to the Government proposals. It was obvious that such a Bill could not be passed without the consent and co-operation of the Press.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I think there are means of communicating the views of the Government otherwise than by introducing a Bill.

Expiring Laws.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of repeated declarations of Ministers, he proposes to include the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Act, or any other temporary Irish Coercion Act, in the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill this Session.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The hon. Member asked me a similar Question a fortnight ago, and I have nothing to add to the reply that I gave to him.†

MR. O'MARA: I will put it down this day week.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I shall not be in a better position to give an Answer then.

MR. O'MARA: Then this day fortnight.

The Dogs Bill.

MR. MORRELL (Oxfordshire, Henley): I beg to ask the Prime Minister when the Government propose to take the Report stage of the Dogs Bill.

SIR. H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am afraid I cannot give my hon. friend any definite undertaking at the moment. The Dogs Bill comes within that list of Bills as to which neither confident hope nor absolute despair would seem to be justifiable.

The Agricultural Vote.

MR. MORRELL: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact that the Agricultural Vote was not reached as expected last Thursday, and of the importance of allowing time for an adequate discussion of this subject, the Government can see their way to reconsider the arrangements announced on Monday, so as to place this Vote first on one of the allotted days.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am sorry that I cannot see my way to alter the arrangements already announced to the House. We will do our best to give an opportunity for discussion.

Public Rights of Way.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the frequency with which public rights of way are being closed and access to the open country barred by owners of land, he will take immediate steps, by legislation or otherwise, to protect the public in their enjoyment of these ancient rights.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: My hon. friend is no doubt aware that under the Local Government Act, 1894, it is the duty of every district council to protect all public rights of way and to prevent as far as possible the stopping or obstruction of any such right of way where such stoppage or obstruction would in their opinion be prejudicial to the interests of their district. In a parish in a rural district the parish council or the parish meeting can put the district council in motion, and if the district council refuse to take proceedings the county council if petitioned by the parish may act in their place. Moreover, it is laid down in the same Act that no public right of way can be stopped in a rural parish without the consent of the parish council, or parish meeting, and of the rural district council. It is difficult to see what further legislation in the way of giving powers to local authorities can be desired, but if my hon. friend has any suggestions to make I shall be glad to consider them.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill.

MR. HEATON-ARMSTRONG (Suffolk, Sudbury): I beg to ask the Prime Minister when he proposes to proceed with the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I believe that the Standing Committee on Law are to proceed with the Bill to-morrow.

The Attack on British Officers in Egypt.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the Prime Minister, in the absence of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether he has been made aware that this morning four Egyptians were sentenced to death by the special Court in connection with the unfortunate affair at Denshawi, and whether he can undertake to obtain a respite of the execution of this sentence until the Foreign Minister has had an opportunity of looking into the circumstances and the evidence given before the Court.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I have not heard anything of the circumstance referred to by the hon. Member, but I assure him that he can trust to the discretion and humanity of my right hon. friend the Foreign Secretary and of those on whose opinion he will rely.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 971.

Progress of the Education Bill.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said the Government had put down an Amendment to Clause 5 of the Education Bill which they might not reach in time to discuss. He desired, therefore, to ask the Minister for Education whether the intention and effect of that Amendment was not to deprive those who in the future, owing to some movement of population or for some other cause, built a school for denominational purposes from having that appeal to the Education Board which was given under Clause 4. That was a question of vital importance for all those who looked forward to the needs that might arise as population increased or moved from place to place.

MR. BIRRELL said the words referred to by the right hon. Gentleman were added for the purpose of making quite plain what might possibly otherwise be obscure, though he did not think so, that the provisions as to an appeal to the Board of Education applied only to existing voluntary schools and were not intended to apply to future schools coming into existence.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth) asked whether, if a transferred voluntary school under Clause 3, which when transferred was not qualified for the four-fifths facilities, subsequently became qualified, an appeal would lie to the Board of Education.

MR. BIRRELL replied that that did not arise out of the question put to him by the right hon. Gentleman, but he would consider it.

LORD R. CECIL asked the Prime Minister whether he was aware that, so far, only three lines out of forty-four in Clause 4 had been discussed in Committee, and that many important questions still remained to be discussed, including the Amendments of the Government; and whether, under these circumstances, he would make arrangements to secure reasonable discussion of the remainder of the clause.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Such arrangements as are possible under what we call the guillotine will, no doubt, be made. We cannot alter that. The House has agreed to certain Resolutions regarding the progress of this Bill in Committee, and we cannot depart from those now. But within the time afforded to us it rests rather with Members of the House than with the Government not to spend time on comparatively unimportant Amendments, but to reserve themselves and the time of the House for questions that are of real value and interest.

LORD R. CECIL: Could the right hon. Gentleman say whether, so far, the discussion has been devoted to questions of small importance, and whether he knows that at the time the guillotine Resolutions were passed the Government had not given notice of or put down their Amendments?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The Amendments put down by the Government, so far from making a larger call upon the time of the House, have made a smaller call. ["Oh."] Yes; because they had the effect of focussing and codifying, as it were, certain important Amendments and suggestions which existed on the Paper at the time in the name of different Members. I am certain that the course taken by the Government in putting down a scheme of Amendments, as it did at the end of last week, has greatly facilitated the proper and regular discussion of this clause.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether among the things that have been focussed and codified by the Amendments put down by the Government he could suggest any Amendment which proposed that there should be a new class of schools called State-aided schools?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am under the impression that everything included in the Amendments of the Government had been before the House in one form or another before.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (IRELAND) BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee on Trade, &c., with Amendments.

Report to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 218.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 218.]

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be taken into consideration To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 277.]

NEW BILLS.

ISLE OF MAN (CUSTOMS) BILL.

"To amend the law with respect to Customs Duties in the Isle of Man," presented by Mr. McKenna; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 278.]

MEAT MARKING (IRELAND) BILL.

"To provide for Marking of important Meat in Ireland," presented by Mr. Field; supported by Mr. Condon, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Captain Donelan, and Mr. O'Mara; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 17th July, and to be printed. [Bill 279.]

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 4:—

*MR. VILLIERS (Brighton) moved an Amendment the effect of which would be to allow Cowper-Temple instruction to be given side by side with denominational teaching. He said he wished his speech could be as short as his Amendment, but he was afraid that was impossible, as it was only to leave out the word "the" in the second line on page 3. The Amendment might appear a very trivial one, but the Committee would see that it had far-reaching results. There was nothing in the whole of the Bill against Cowper-Temple instruction until they reached this clause. If a school became a transferred school *ipso facto* Cowper-Temple teaching was allowed. By this clause facilities were granted, under certain conditions, for special religious instruction to be given, and the clause then referred to that instruction as *the* religious instruction of the school that was to say, the whole, not part, of the religious instruction. If the hon. Members would read the clause they would see it inferred that, when once facilities were granted, those facilities would cover the whole field of religious instruction given in the school. As the clause now stood no provision whatever was made for the minority; when facilities were granted the local authority must either turn the children out or allow them to remain—he did not say to be converted or perverted, but verted to another denomination than that to which their parents belonged. But if the clause were without that little word "the" there was nothing whatever to prevent the local authorities from giving Cowper-Temple instruction alongside of denominational teaching if they considered the circumstances warranted it. In the case of a school of 400 children, though it might be able to prove its four-fifths, the local authority might say "why should the minority" (and one-fifth of 400 meant eighty children), "why should these eighty children be compelled to cross perhaps three more dangerous crossings or go another half mile, with the only alternative of becoming little Anglicans or Roman Catholics?" A mother thought more of one dangerous crossing than all the "isms" in the world. In a case of that kind local authorities might easily refuse these facilities, but, on the other hand, if this small word in the clause were omitted they might say, "Yes, we will grant you your facilities, because we find there is another room in the school where Cowper-Temple instruction can be given, and there is nothing in the Bill to prevent it. Here, to his mind, was an Amendment which ought to appeal to all those in favour of popular control, because it gave the local authority more power to deal with exceptional cases. The ballot mitigated the coercion of the priest, and this Amendment would relieve the coercion of circumstances. He did not believe the local authority would use this power in any frivolous or partial way. The Amendment in many instances would favour the denominations by enabling them to receive facilities which they otherwise would not obtain, and the minority would be protected. He thought the Committee would see that the Amendment had a good deal to be said for it. By getting rid of the definite article they could change the clause into a different article. If the Government accepted the Amendment it would go a long way towards converting the irritating "claws" into velvet paws.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 2, to leave out the word 'the.'"—(*Mr. Villiers.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'the' stand part of the clause."

The PRESIDENT of the BOARD of EDUCATION (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) said the Amendment was wholly inconsistent with Clause 4, which, whether people liked it or not, was to secure teaching of a denominational character. The whole object of the clause was to secure that the schools which fulfilled the very rigorous condition laid down in subsection (*b*) should be allowed to have the denominational teaching which was desired and no other. He did not think they could take into their consideration the question of the minority children for which no provision was made under the four-fifths clause. They went to the school because they liked it, and if they did not wish to they need not go. To accept the Amendment of his hon. friend would be to destroy to a considerable degree the denominational basis and the intention of the clause; therefore it was impossible for the Government to accept it.

Lord R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said it certainly appeared to him that the course indicated in the Amendment was a very desirable one to adopt in the interests of a real and true settlement. He felt sure that they would have ultimately to come round to that settlement, because there was no other. He hoped that the Government, after carefully considering the matter more fully, would conclude that it was in the interests of that peace which they professed so much to desire that they should accept the solution suggested in the Amendment.

Lord MORPETH (Birmingham, S.) complained that Clause 4 was so restricted as to be almost valueless. They were told that it had to be so restricted in order to protect the children in single school areas. There was practically no school in England or Wales which had not more than one class room, and more than one teacher, and it would be perfectly easy to take the minority of the scholars into another room, and have them taught separately, without any injustice being done. The Amendment would enable the Government to sweep away one of the worst restrictions in the Clause, namely, that which limited it to certain areas by taking an arbitrary fraction of the parents, and saying that only where that fraction existed should denominational facilities be given. The Amendment made for elasticity and freedom in giving such religious teaching as was desired by the parents of the children.

Mr. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) considered that the Amendment would enable the children in a minority in a four-fifths school to receive religious instruction if their parents wished it.

Question put.

The Committee divided. Ayes, 344; Noes, 87. (Division List, No. 157.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Rylands
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Ambrose, Robert
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex Romford)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire)
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brace, William
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hon. Sydney Chas.

Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats,SirT.Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth
Condon, ThomasJoseph
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,CH.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies,David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne,MajorE.Martin(Walsall)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grove, Archibald
Gulland, Hon. W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth,R.L.(Caithness-sh
Harrington, Timothy
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazelton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.)
Hudson, Walter
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swans'a)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea,HughCecil (St.Pancras, E.)
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy(Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M. (FalkirkB'ghs
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal,E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. S.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J.Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nicholls, George
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Nenry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Palmer, Sir Charles Marks
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson,W.H.M.(Suffolk, Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps,J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price, Robert John(Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thos. (W.Monm'th)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mptn
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee

Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Sears, J. E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor,Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant,SirEdward(Salisb'ry)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,SirA. (Glamorgan,E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, John Durham, Mid)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley, and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach,Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hon.J.(Birm.)
Channing, Francis Allston
Coates, E. Feetham(Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan,Robert (Lanark Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hardy,Laurence(Kent, Ashford
Heaton, John Henniker
Hervey,F.W.F.(Bury S.Ed'mds
Hill, HenryStaveley(Staff'sh.)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn.Col.W.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.,Fareham
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col. A.R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,JohnThrogmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington)
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Ropner, Col. Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson,W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Willoughby, de Eresby, Lord
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Villiers and Viscount Morpeth.

MR. BIRRELL moved to insert words in Section 1 (*a*) requiring that the wishes of the parents in regard to extended facilities for special religious instruction should be ascertained as the result of a ballot taken in accordance with regulations made for the purpose by the Board of Education. So far as he understood there had been no great opposition in regard to this proposal. He thought the only point they had to consider was whether the Board of Education should not be left free to make the rules necessary for taking the ballot. He moved this Amendment because he believed this to be the best way of removing all suspicion as to the result they wished to make plain—namely, that the wishes of the parents had been consulted genuinely and properly, and without extraneous pressure. That was a suspicion which was easily raised in people's breasts, whether it was justified or not. This would be a valuable safeguard of subsection (*a*). He believed the ballot was generally recognised as the best means now known of getting the unbiassed opinion of a locality. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed--

"In page 3, line 7, after the word 'that,' to insert the words 'as the result of a ballot taken as to the wishes of the parents in accordance with regulations made for the purpose by the Board of Education it appears that.'"—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) did not raise any abstract objection to the ballot, but he thought the Government left the matter far too vague. The object of the right hon. Gentleman was to ascertain the wishes of the parents, uninfluenced by any extraneous persuasion or any question of pressure from any extraneous authority. His complaint was that this was a very unfair and unsatisfactory way of getting at the truth in the matter. He thought that, if the Government were reluctant to introduce into the Bill the regulations which they proposed to issue, they ought, at all events, to lay on the Table of the House before the Bill got much further, and certainly before it passed the Report stage, the kind of instructions which would be sent round to the various schools. There were two points in particular to which he attached importance and which he asked the right hon. Gentleman to consider. In the first place, the ballot ought to be taken by a thoroughly independent and impartial body. They should not be a body which had a distinct motive to arrive at one result rather than another. The right hon. Gentleman had truly said that it was very easy to raise suspicion that pressure had been put on individuals in regard to their votes. It was also very easy to raise suspicion that the decision had not been taken fairly, and therefore it was very important that the method of taking the ballot should be independent of all parties, including the local authority. There was another and far more important point, and that was as to the kind of question to be put to the parents. The right hon. Gentleman had probably interested himself with the problem of the referendum as applied to political matters in some States. This was the referendum, and as the only answer to the question asked would be "Aye," or "No," everything turned on the form in which the question was prepared. It was absolutely necessary that the question put should be one which really elicited the point whether the parents desired the teaching in a particular school to go on in the future as in the past. The Government ought to tell the Committee in what form they thought the referendum should be put to the parents; it should be in one simple, clear form.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said he had no objection to the ballot; on the contrary, he favoured it; but he thought the points put by the Leader of the Opposition were of vital importance. Really they could not come to any decision on the matter until they knew what kind of question was going to be put. It was perfectly possible, without any deep design, that the parents might not know what was meant by the question they would have to ballot upon; for example, if they were simply asked whether they desired special facilities under Clause 4. The point put by the right hon. Gentleman was a reasonable and most important one, and they should have, before the Bill passed out of Committee, a draft of the regulations that were to obtain with regard to the taking of the ballot. The question put should be simple and should not be framed with any desire to carry out one particular view. He was sure that the Minister for Education would be able to give an assurance that the ballot would not be taken by people who were thoroughly hostile to the granting of the facilities. There was one other point. In order to take this ballot it would be necessary to keep in every school a complete register of parents. He did not say that that was a very difficult task; but it was absolutely essential to the carrying out of Clause 4, whether they had a ballot or not. When he advocated a committee of parents one difficulty that was raised against him was the impossibility of keeping a register of parents. But Clause 4 could not be put into operation at all unless a register of parents was kept very carefully. He confessed that if a plan could be devised by which a committee of parents could be fairly elected to represent the schools it would be a very much simpler scheme than that proposed by the Minister for Education.

MR. STUART (Sunderland) said that certain alterations would be necessary in this subsection if the words proposed by the Minister for Education were adopted. So long as Subsection (*a*) stood as originally framed it would be quite easy to carry it out; but the moment the ballot was introduced it would be impossible to say whether it was four-fifths of the parents or four-fifths of the children. If the ballot of which he approved was introduced, the remainder of the clause must be altered so as to make it possible to determine what was meant by the ballot.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that the point raised by the hon. Gentleman was important, and he took shame to himself that he had not seen it before. He was not anxious to find a case against the ballot; but, after all, it was the children they had to consider. The Bill was originally framed on the right lines according to the number of children that would be affected, and not the number of parents. The new proposal entirely destroyed the old form of the clause.

MR. STUART said that the difficulty could be met by issuing ballot forms according to the number of children.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he did not know what the rural voter was going to do if he had to deal not only with the ballot but with plural voting. But he thought the suggestion of the hon. Gentleman was well worth considering.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) said that the Committee were at a disadvantage in not having before them the regulations for taking the ballot. In the Public Libraries Act, if a ballot was taken, another ballot could not be taken until a certain number of years had elapsed. Under this subsection, was the judgment of the parents of a particular locality to be final?

*MR. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth) said that each child would be supplied with a little voting paper to take home for the purpose of the ballot. The ballot would be according to the number of children and not the number of parents. From the beginning he had been opposed to the clause. He believed it was a bad clause. The more it was examined the more impossible it would be found. He did not agree with the Leader of the Opposition that the number of children should govern this question at all. It should be four-fifths of the parents of the children. The clause would enable a parent if he had six children to give three ballot papers in one direction and three in another. [AN HON. MEMBER: Why not?] It would balance one-half of a family against the other. He mentioned these points to show how hopelessly unsatisfactory the clause was.

MR. BIRRELL said that the animus of his hon. friend the Member for Louth, which was no doubt genuine, was to be judged by his objection to every line and word in the clause. The discussion showed that the Government were wise to leave the matter to be decided by regulations, though he admitted that the regulations should be within the knowledge of the Committee before they parted company with the Bill. He did not agree with what had been said about the local authorities. He could not imagine that the ballot was to be taken away from the local authorities because someone attributed to them a desire that the result should be of a particular kind which would not require them to give the four-fifths facilities. He did not think that that was a fair way of putting it. The ballot-box, once put into operation, provided that the question put was a proper one, was above all suspicion. That had always been the method of the ballot-box. It did not matter who provided it, the ballot-box was not open to the charge of animus. The question of importance was that in every part of the country the form of the question should be the same, and that in that sense it should be statutory. The noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone had an Amendment in which he gave his own view as to the form of the question which should be put—a very natural, proper and sensible question, viz. :—

> "Do you wish the religious instruction in the school where your children attend to remain of the same character as it is now ?"

But the feeling of the Government was that, if it were possible, the form in which the question was put should be very closely identified with the form of the Statute itself. He did not say that that was absolutely essential, but it was the view of experts. The subject, however, would be most carefully considered, and an opportunity would be given to discuss the form of the question before they parted with the Bill in this House. In regard to the point raised by his hon friend behind him they had always intended that the parent should have as many ballot balls or forms as he had children, so that the parent of six children should have six times the voting power of the parent of one child. Let them hope that six would be the maximum. He was not putting any limit to the fecundity of the population of the country; he only said that the school age was limited from five to thirteen years, and, therefore, that of itself would limit the number of children of any one parent in average attendance at school at one and the same time. Therefore, there was no difficulty in that way. He insisted that this was a question of the children, and not of the parents. It was the number of children in the schools that determined its denominational character. It was not the parents sitting at home: it was not a question of stocks and roots which were more or less prolific; but a question of the number of children in the schools. If he might use language with which he was formerly more familiar than now, they should decide this question *per capita* and not *per stirpes*. He fully recognised the absolute necessity that the question to be put should appear in the regulations, and that it should be one and the same question for all parts of the country; and he would see that the regulations were placed on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

*MR. VERNEY (Buckinghamshire, N.) said that the real difficulty underlying this particular part of the subject was the making of regulations on an unstable basis. There could hardly be a more fluctuating and uncertain basis for calculation of the four-fifths than the numbers of children going to a school or leaving it. The parents of four-fifths of the children at a school in August would probably have a very different proportion of the children in September after the summer holidays. What was really wanted to be known was the opinions of a large majority of the parents, not those of their children. The strength of a parent's religious convictions did not depend upon the number of his children at school. The gratuitous introduction of such an extremely unstable basis of calculation of the four-fifths was unfortunate and would lead to unnecessary confusion in a case where the element of stability was very important to prevent the constant recurrence of religious squabbling.

THE CHAIRMAN said that they were now discussing the question of the ballot. The point raised by the hon. Member would come later on.

*MR. VERNEY said that in that case he would reserve his remarks till a later period.

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University) inquired whether when the word "parents" was used it meant both parents or only one parent; that was to say, was the mother as well as the father included.

MR. BIRRELL said the word meant the responsible parent under the Act of 1870.

SIR E. CARSON pointed out that the Act of 1870 did not give any definition of the word "parents." If the Bill were left as it stood, the matter would be quite open, and this would lead to utter absurdity. Supposing there were six children in the family, would there be six votes; and, if so, who was to exercise them: the father or the mother ?

MR. BIRRELL: One or the other.

SIR E. CARSON insisted that some provision dealing with this matter ought to be inserted in the Bill.

MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.) quite agreed that the Committee should take a strong line upon this matter and see that the questions put to parents in regard to voting were intelligible and such as the rural population could understand.

LORD R. CECIL hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would, in dealing with this matter, be guided by his own common sense and would not take the advice of experts. He could not but regret that the right hon. Gentleman had introduced the ballot in this matter, as he thought the scheme was more workable before than since its introduction. Let him put a difficulty which the right hon. Gentleman would see was a real one which would arise under paragraphs (*a*) and (*b*). Under paragraph (*a*) it had to be ascertained that the parents of at least four-fifths of the children attending the schools desired the facilities, and under parargaph (*b*) it had to be ascertained that there was public school accommodation in schools not affected by a permission given under the section for the children attending the schools whose parents did not desire those facilities. That meant that in taking the vote they had to take into account the number of parents of children who were in favour of the continuance of the facilities in the schools, and then the facilities would be afforded if there was school accommodation for the remainder of the children. Let them take the case of a school in which there was no definite accommodation for any of the children in the matter of religious instruction except with regard to those children whose parents were satisfied with the religious instruction already afforded in the school. Because one parent was lazy and failed to record his vote, were the whole of the other children to be deprived of these facilities? The sub-sections assumed that there must be a unanimous vote. He also wished to ask a question as to an Amendment which appeared on the Paper in the name of the President of the Board of Education. It ran—

> "Where the local education authority refuse to agree to an arrangement offered to them by the owners of the schoolhouse of an existing voluntary school as respects the use of the schoolhouse, and the school is one in respect of which extended facilities could be granted under this section, and are desired, the owners of the schoolhouse may appeal to the Board of Education, and that Board may, if they think fit, after considering the circumstances of the case, and the wishes of the parents of children attending the school as to the continuance of the school with extended facilities, by order, make an arrangement under this Act with respect to the use of the schoolhouse on such terms and conditions as may be contained in the order, including, if thought fit, a condition requiring extended facilities to be afforded, but if under any special circumstances of the case the Board think it expedient, they may, instead of making such an arrangement, make an order allowing the school to continue as a State-aided school. Provided that——"

There was little there about the parents, but the main reference was to the local education authority. How were they going to discover the will of the parent under that proposal? No machinery seemed to be contemplated. The provision seemed to have been inserted to meet the unreasoning fear of the Nonconformists that the parson of the parish was a sort of dragon going about seeking whom he might devour.

MR. BIRRELL said he could not distinguish between reasonable and unreasonable parsons. He could only deal with what he found existing. He had had experience of the class of parson—whom he hoped formed the majority of the clergy of the country—who were the noblest of their species; who were loved by everybody in their parishes, and could do almost anything they liked with everybody in them. He had had experience of that class of parson, but there were other members of the clergy with whom it was almost impossible to get on, as he knew very well as a Nonconformist. As to the noble Lord, what was his first point? It went on the supposition that there would not be public school accommodation for one child.

LORD R. CECIL said that, as he took it, there must be unanimity where there was no other school accommodation.

MR. BIRRELL did not think the noble Lord's fears would be realised having regard to the limits which they had fixed by this clause, namely, that it only applied in urban areas. The argument of the noble Lord as to the injustice was very far fetched. The parents could come in upon the local inquiry, and the conditions of the local inquiry were that at least four-fifths of the parents of the children should desire these facilities. Whether the parents desired them would form part of the inquiry. He had indicated to the noble Lord the other day that he was quite willing to insert words to secure the rights of parents and of the owners of schools to raise the matter when it came to a question of a local inquiry, but the local inquiry necessitated a ballot.

SIR E. CARSON wished to know how they were to ascertain under sub-section (*b*) if the parents did not desire it.

MR. BIRRELL said the matter was easy enough. They knew the children in the schools and their parents, and the inquiry would show whether four-fifths of the parents desired the facilities or not.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR did not think the right hon. Gentleman appreciated his noble friend's point. It might be arguable whether it was fair to destroy the denominational organisation of a school because one child could not find accommodation for religious instruction in the neighbourhood. The ballot would tell them whether four-fifths of the parents desired denominational teaching, but there was nothing to show that those who abstained from the ballot did not also desire denominational teaching. It was essential, if the Government were to carry out their own plan, to discover not only whether the parents desired accommodation, but whether any of the parents desired accommodation elsewhere. Then abstention might and probably would be a matter to be taken into account. As he understood, what his noble friend desired was that mere abstention from the ballot should not be taken as an indication of a preference for another kind of school.

MR. BIRRELL said he did not agree with the right hon. Gentleman in this matter. Let them suppose that in a school of 100 children they took a ballot. The ballot showed that the parents of eighty of the children had an active desire for denominational facilities and the parents of twenty did not vote. In that case accommodation must be provided for those twenty children in some other school. They did not desire the facilities. It was the active desire indicated by the vote that showed who desired facilities, and if the parents of the twenty did not care to take the trouble to go to the poll he knew of no other way to deal with the point. The Bill said they could get the facilities and advantages if they showed an active desire, by vote, for them. If they did not vote it must be taken that they did not desire them. Then sub-section (*b*) said that the eighty could not have their four-fifths facilities unless there was another school in the neighbourhood to which the twenty children who did not desire these facilities might go.

MR. WYNDHAM (Dover) asked whether it was suggested that a man who was on a bed of sickness and who was in favour of facilities being given was to go and vote, or were they to assume there was unanimity. The fair way to vote would be to put the ' ayes" into one box and the "noes" into another.

MR. DILLON said that the President of the Board had laid down the most astounding doctrine he had ever heard of. The right hon. Gentleman had lately been before a constituency. Supposing the doctrine he had laid down was applied in that constituency would he be willing to count every voter who did not vote as a man who did not want him as a Member? It was precisely the same thing. There were always a certain proportion of men who did not vote in a Parliamentary election, and what the right hon. Gentleman wanted to do in this case was to take all those who did not vote and count them on one side of the issue. A more unfair and astonishing doctrine he had never heard of. Anyone who had had any experience of elections knew perfectly well that a perfect vote was never obtained; that for some reason or other people would neglect to vote. To take everybody who for some reason or other could not vote, the sick, the dying, the absent on a journey, sailors, soldiers, commercial travellers and people of all kinds whose business took them away at the time of voting, and say that they were all to be counted as being against the facilities would turn the whole thing into an absolute mockery, and do a double injustice, because not only would they count those who did not vote as being against the facilities, but their children would be counted as children who would not remain in the schools. A great number would not vote because they belonged to a different religion, and although they had no objection to the facilities would rather see the facilities given without their active co-operation. Yet these people were to be counted as being against the facilities.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid.) said he thought the hon. Member had entirely misplaced the analogy of the constituency and the election. The issue was not the same. Let them take a school of 100 children. If they had only ten persons going to vote for these facilities, and there were less than two on the other side, that would decide the issue, whereas the clause said "the parents of four-fifths of the children" had expressed a desire for these facilities. It was not a question to be decided by a majority of those who went to the poll, so to speak. That was not the clause. The clause said that they should not have facilities unless the parents of four-fifths of the children desired them. It was a perfectly simple clause. It allowed people with strong views to claim these facilities, and the least those people could do if they desired the facilities was to express their desire by ballot. In a school of 100 children if the parents of eighty of them voted for the facilities they could have them if they showed there was sufficient school accommodation in the district for the twenty children the parents of whom did not desire the facilities. That was as he understood the clause.

SIR E. CARSON said the hon. and learned Member had apparently mistaken the point of his hon. friend. This point was one of real substance. Let the Committee consider the case put by the hon. Gentleman where they had the votes of four-fifths of the parents of the 100 children in the school, and there remained twenty children who might be the children of four parents. Were they going to deprive the children of that school of special facilities because there was no other school in the neighbourhood to which the twenty children could go? Could anything be more monstrous? Supposing they communicated with those who were sick and could not vote and they were found to be unanimously in favour of the facilities, were they going to say that that was a school that should not have facilities? Supposing they had a unanimous school, of which there were many, the second school would not be availed of. Were they going to leave the whole question of facilities to the mere accident of health or absence? That would be not only a wanton absurdity but a monstrous injustice. The clause did not say the parents who did not vote or who happened to be ill or away, but the parents who did not desire these facilities. What they objected to was the right hon. Gentleman setting up new machinery specially for ascertaining whether there were any parents who did not desire these facilities. One ballot at all events would not do for ascertaining two absolutely different questions. Personally he considered the whole question of the ballot in this matter absolutely foolish and inapplicable. But if they adhered to the principle of the ballot they had as much right to obtain accurately the views of those who did not desire the facilities as of those who did, and he suggested it would be much better to have the ballot under (*b*) than (*a*). It was much more proper to assume that a man did not vote because he was satisfied with existing arrangements than that he wanted something different. No answer had yet been given to this point. If they left the proposal as it was under the right hon. Gentleman's Amendment they would leave it in a state, not only of absolute confusion, but of absolute injustice. The right hon. Gentleman really must tell them how he was going to ascertain the parents of those who did not desire the facilities.

He could not be satisfied with the assumption that the sick and absent did not desire the facilities. That was not an argument which the right hon. Gentleman would use in any other assembly than the House of Commons. Unless machinery was set up, or the machinery was made applicable only to (*b*), he hoped his hon. friends on the Opposition side of the House at all events would persist until they got some logical method of determining questions which the right hon. Gentleman had himself raised.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir W. ROBSON, South Shields) said hon. Gentlemen opposite were making great difficulties about what was inherent in every election. They all knew that persons who did not go to the ballot were ignored in the result of the election; they were not counted either on the one side or on the other. But the Government here had done better than in the case of the ordinary elections. Hon. Gentlemen opposite could have scarcely considered the fact of the public inquiry. The local authority had to settle two problems which he dared say were accompanied in the mode of settlement by some disadvantages. They had first to ascertain whether four-fifths of the parents desired the special facilities. They found that out by means of the ballot. The Government were not making any unreasonable assumption when they said that people who did not take advantage of the opportunity of expressing their desire did not possess that desire. There were no means by which to ascertain the feelings and opinions of people who would not go to vote. The local authority would have fulfilled its duty if it had found out how many persons desired facilities. It had next to consider the case of the persons who had not expressed their desire. For that purpose it had to look round and see whether there was school accommodation for the children of parents who did not desire the facilities. Let them take a case in which eighty parents out of 100 had declared themselves in favour of facilities. The question would then arise whether there was public school accommodation for the children of the twenty non-desiring parents. That was for the local authority to consider. The non-desiring parents might appear at the public inquiry and say that the local authoritty need not trouble very much about the public school accommodation for their children. The Government had gone far beyond the ordinary electoral system in attempting to ascertain the wish of every parent—of those who desired facilities, and then of those who did not. To hear hon. Gentlemen speak about absent and sick parents, one would imagine that a general election must be invalid because a large number of persons entitled to vote were not at the polls. It was absolutely impossible to devise better means to ascertain the public will than the electoral machine, but the Bill supplemented those methods by a public inquiry which would ensure that every substantial body of parents in the area had their wishes expressed.

*MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) said he would give a concrete case. Let them take a school three miles or more from any other school, so that it was impossible to find alternate accommodation, and suppose that the parents of ninety-nine children out of 100 voted for Church of England teaching, but the parent of the remaining child, although a member of the Church of England, was absent, or ill, or for some reason would not vote. In such a case the whole thing would fall to the ground, because it was impossible in the instance he had put to fulfil the condition in sub-section (*b*). The point which the Solicitor-General put did not meet the difficulty at all. The hon. and learned Gentleman had said there would be a public inquiry at which the dissenting parents or any parent who did not vote could state their views. But this was a case of balloting. Nobody knew, and nobody would be entitled to know, who were the parents who had not voted or what were their opinions. Even supposing that a man did come forward and say that he waived condition (*b*), there was no provision in the Bill for giving effect to that waiver. The whole thing was unreasonable and unworkable. If there was to be a vote it should be held in such a way as to ascertain not only those who desired the facilities, but those who objected to them, and desired to have other forms of religious instruction.

He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would re-consider the whole matter.

*THE CHAIRMAN pointed out that the Committee were getting a little away from the Amendment regarding the ballot on sub-section (*a*), and drifting into a discussion on questions which could only be met by Amendments to sub-section (*b*).

MR. STUART said a great deal of what had been said by hon. Gentlemen was criticism of what did not exist in the clause, although it was intended to be read or introduced into it. As the clause stood the ballot only applied to (*a*). It had been stated that the position would be ascertained at a public inquiry. If it was intended to be ascertained by ballot it should read "parents who have not expressed their desire to have those facilities."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the hon. Member for Sunderland was mistaken as to the position in which the Committee found itself. The position had been illustrated by two speeches which were wholly inconsistent. The principle laid down by the Minister for Education was that every parent who did not vote in favour of facilities was supposed to be hostile. But that was not the version given by the Solicitor-General, who put forward a new theory, viz., that the proper method was the ballot, and in that way they would discover whether 80 per cent. of the parents did or did not require the facilities. The ballot was good enough for them, but there was another method of discovering those who did not want the facilities. Why was the ballot to be used to investigate the number who did want facilities and the public inquiry to find out the number who did not? Was there ever such an absurd scheme put forward?

SIR W. ROBSON said that was not his statement. He referred to sub-section (*b*) which laid upon the local authority the duty of ascertaining whether there was public school accommodation in schools not affected by a permission given under the section for the children attending the school whose parents did not desire the facilities.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he thought that point was not in order. It was the business of the local authority by an investigation to discover the number of parents who really wanted their children to go elsewhere. Two methods were deliberately adopted by the Government. There was the ballot for those who desired denominational education and the public inquiry for those who did not. He thought that was ridiculous. The Government must feel that something would have to be done to meet this case. Were 90 per cent. of the children in a school to be deprived of denominational education because 10 per cent. were indifferent? Was that the policy of the Government? If so, could it stand criticism in any assembly which was not bound by the peculiar difficulties under which the Committee were now labouring? Could the Government hold that position for a moment but for the closure? Would they not be driven from it in hopeless rout? They could not support their case by any argument that would hold water before an impartial assembly. Was it, therefore, not advisable that the Government should devise some Amendment in the next few lines which would meet the justice and the equities of the case?

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fife, E.) said he wished to point out what the intention of the Government was in introducing the Bill. Most of the criticism of the Leader of the Opposition had been addressed to the Clause. For what purpose was the parent introduced? Because it was the first condition preceding the granting of these facilities that the parents of at least four-fifths of the children should desire them. The original Bill provided no machinery for this purpose but the local inquiry, and so the Government thought, in the interests of accuracy and to avoid misconceptions, it would be better to determine that question by the machinery now provided. That was the Amendment which was now before the Committee. Then there arose the second of the two conditions on the fulfilment of which the enjoyment of the facilities depended. The right hon. Gentleman had said they were going to ignore the ballot or misuse it in determining that question, but he contradicted that. *Prima facie* persons who had not expressed their desire by voting in the ballot were persons who might be assumed not to desire it. ["No"] That was only common sense. He did not think it would be right to assume from the fact that a man had not voted that that was conclusive on this point. A man might be away or ill, and there might be a number of reasons which would prevent him from exercising his vote, and for that reason it was very desirable that a public inquiry should be held in order that persons of this kind could come forward.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON: But the ballot follows the local inquiry.

Mr. ASQUITH: Not at all. But if there was any difficulty in that respect it could be put right. It was the intention of the Government that the ballot should be not conclusive proof that there was a four-fifths majority, but *prima facie* evidence that persons who did not vote "Aye" were persons who were not desirous of extended facilities. The local inquiry was supplementary, and might very well enable the local authority to determine whether or not in such cases as the right hon. Gentleman had now put extended facilities were wanted and could be given.

Mr. BLAKE (Longford, S.) said this was not an ordinary ballot. It was a case in which four-fifths of the whole body of the electors were required to vote in order that the local authority might be induced to take a certain course in regard to the providing of facilities. It was clear, therefore, that the ballot would not represent the whole number of those who desired facilities. By taking a ballot they did not get the opinion of those parents who did not vote on account of sickness, absence on duty, or otherwise, and who always formed a considerable proportion of the whole body of electors. A local inquiry was a more elastic method of ascertaining the views of the parents, because the decision arrived at did not necessarily depend on the presence of every parent who desired to express an opinion as in the case of a ballot. As a rule, almost invariably, there would be a larger number really and genuinely desiring facilities than those whose votes were recorded at the polls. The discussion in its present form was due to the statement which the Minister for Education had made as to the construction to be put on the result of the ballot. What had aroused feeling in the Committee was the statement of the right hon. Gentleman that all the parents who did not, from whatever cause, say "Yes" were to be taken as saying "No." There must be a distinct assurance given that no such view would be taken, otherwise great injustice would be inflicted, and this clause would become less operative for the purpose for which it was said to be intended than anybody could have expected.

Mr. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) said he should like to bring before the Committee a concrete case which took place within four miles of where he lived in an urban district. In connection with a school attended by 300 children there was an inquiry to ascertain the desire of the parents with respect to religious instruction. The question put to them was in the very words contained in the Amendment proposed by the noble Lord, namely—

> "Do you wish the religious instruction in the school which your children attend to remain of the same character as it is now."

The answers were not given under the ballot. All but seven of the parents answered the question in the affirmative, and further inquiry showed that of these seven parents four were Roman Catholics who, though in favour of religious instruction being given in the school, stated that they could not be expected to give their assent to the form of instruction which was given. The other three parents gave no answer, but there was no dissent on their part. This concrete case showed that instances of great difficulty would arise under the ballot. Were they to understand that the accommodation under sub-section (*b*) which was to be found in schools unconnected with extended facilities would only apply to the children of those who appeared at the public inquiry.

THE CHAIRMAN: Clearly that question does not arise on this Amendment.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY said the Committee should have a clear statement from the Government as to what was really meant by ballot under the clause. The opinions of parents should not be judged by the fact of their voting or not voting.

MR. BIRRELL said that the point before him earlier in the afternoon, when he got a little beyond the rules of order, was sub-section (*a*). He certainly said, and it was a view which was perfectly clear on the reading of the clause itself, that the parents of the children attending the school would have actively to make known their wishes. The fact to be determined under the very wording of the clause was that the parents of at least four-fifths of the children attending the school desired facilities, and if parents did not exercise their vote they could not be said by any possible rule of law, or equity, or common sense, to desire facilities. That was the whole concession of the clause, which was based upon the denominational anxiety of the parents. They were to express actively by vote in the ballot what their wishes were in the matter. Under sub-section (*b*) a public inquiry was to be held to ascertain whether or not there was sufficient accommodation in the schools for the number of children whose parents did not express a desire for facilities. In that inquiry nothing would be easier than to have evidence afforded that would go to show that parents who had not voted were not desirous of accommodation elsewhere. Parents who had not voted on account of ill-health, or for other reasons, could be represented at the public inquiry held to ascertain whether or not there was public school accommodation for the children who would be excluded by the denominational feelings of their parents from attending the four-fifths schools. A public inquiry would be a very foolish inquiry if it did not deal with the actual facts of the case. So far as sub-section (*a*) was concerned, he could not withdraw in any way from what he had said—that the only way of indicating a desire to obtain the facilities was by recording a vote.

MR. WYNDHAM said that the proposal of the President of the Board of Education was a totally impracticable one. If it were adopted, an inquiry would in every case destroy any advantage supposed to be gained from the ballot. Unless there were as many votes given as there were children attending the school, there was a *prima facie* assumption, according to the argument of right hon. Gentleman opposite, that the remainder did not actually desire those facilities and the local authority was to consider whether there was the accommodation needed for the children represented by the absent voters. A 100 per cent. poll was unknown, so that in every case there would be this investigation or inquiry, which would embrace the consideration of why certain parents did not put in their votes. But how were they going to discover who did not vote? They could not have a scrutiny of a ballot of this character. At the local inquiry every man must be asked whether he had voted, and whether he had exhausted the whole of his voting power.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.) said he had rarely heard a more extraordinary statement than that to which the Committee had just listened. It was based on a misunderstanding of the whole situation both before and after the ballot. Let him recall to the Committee where they stood, and what promises were made by his right hon. friend at the commencement of the debate. His right hon. friend had distinctly stated that the regulations for the ballot—the whole machinery to be adopted—would be placed on the Table of the House before the Bill left the House of Commons. He had pledged himself to that, and yet a couple of hours had been spent in discussing what the regulations ought to be and in putting into his right hon. friend's mouth remarks which he did not make. This hurried on the guillotine more rapidly, and excluded consideration of other matters.

MR. WYNDHAM said that if the right hon. Gentleman wished to charge him with having spoken in order to waste time, he was under a complete misapprehension. He had listened carefully to all that had fallen from the Minister for Education, and he did not think that he had misrepresented him by a single word.

*Sɪʀ HENRY FOWLER repudiated having made any charge against the right hon. Gentleman. What he had said was that the effect of this protracted debate on a detail not before the Committee, and which would come up at a subsequent stage, was a waste of time having regard to the serious questions which remained undiscussed. The whole of these proceedings depended upon the proving of a fact. It was that four-fifths of the parents of the children attending the school desired the school to go on as before. That was the fact to be ascertained; there was no contest. Let them take a concrete illustration. Suppose 100 children attended a school, before the owners of that school could claim that denominational education should be continued as before he must prove that the parents of eighty of the children were in favour of that course. If the fact were not proved there was an end of it. The matter was a very simple one. His right hon. friend would tell the Committee the machinery by which the ballot was to be worked. If the initial fact was proved, then the next stage was the submission of this demand by statutory right to the local authority to consider whether the claim should be granted. One of the terms of the inquiry then to be made was whether there was proper accommodation for the children who would not attend a four-fifths school.

Sɪʀ WILLIAM ANSON said that the Bill provided that there must be a public inquiry before the ballot took place. [Mɪɴɪsᴛᴇʀɪᴀʟ cries of "No, no."]

*Sɪʀ HENRY FOWLER maintained that the initial procedure was to ascertain whether there were four-fifths in favour of the denominational education. It was easy to make paradoxical points regarding cases which did not happen in real life. No local authority having the knowledge that there was accommodation for the children remaining would split hairs in a manner totally contrary to common sense and common judgment. There would be no occasion to argue whether the non-voters were for or against. As to the machinery of the ballot, the local authorities were quite capable, from long experience, of taking a ballot so as to secure absolute impartiality. If the eighty out of 100 were in favour of these facilities being extended they would have to be granted.

Sɪʀ THOMAS ESMONDE suggested that it would be simpler to add an Amendment which would make it perfectly clear that the question should be decided by the parents who voted.

Mʀ. HAROLD COX (Preston) appealed to the Government to ask themselves what their object was in inserting this clause in the Bill. Who was it that they wished to protect? Surely they wished to protect the minority who were not content with the denominational teaching given in the schools. There was no necessity to protect the majority who were content with the existing denominational teaching. They were satisfied with the *status quo*. The only injustice arose in regard to those who were dissatisfied with the *status quo*, and therefore they ought to ascertain the feelings of the minority and not of the majority.

Sɪʀ GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) wished to know if he was correct in understanding the right hon. Gentleman to say that his interpretation of the clause was that if four-fifths of the parents of the children attending the school desired them, the facilities would be granted. Hon. Members on the Opposition side of the House had always understood that if accommodation was not found for the other fifth, that was to say, for the twenty out of the 100, the four-fifths could not enjoy the facilities.

Mʀ. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) complained that he had not received a sufficient answer to his question whether the word "parents" included the mothers. He would like to have an answer to that question, because it was the most important that could be asked in regard to the Bill. The parents of many of the children were working people and the fathers might be obliged to be absent at the time a ballot was taken. What he wanted to know was whether in such cases the mother of the children would be allowed to give the vote in regard to the facilities.

SIR W. ROBSON said that perhaps he might be allowed to answer the question, which he was sure he did not wish to evade. The ballot would be taken in accordance with regulations to be made by the Board, which would prescribe the method. *Prima facie*, the word "parent" would mean the father, who was, of course, the guardian of the child, but it would be quite open to the Board to prescribe a means by which the wish of the father could be ascertained by the vote of the mother. All these points would be carefully considered.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR rose to a point of order, and to clear up the situation wished to know whether it was possible at this stage to raise an Amendment by which the particular matters which the Opposition cared about could be brought to issue. They could not be brought to issue by merely voting for the actual Amendment before the Committee, and if it was not possible to amend that Amendment so as to make the issue a precise one, he would suggest that they should not rely upon this Amendment, but should wait until they arrived at Sub-section (*b*) to see whether the matter could not be raised in a precise and specific form.

*THE CHAIRMAN said it was not possible to reply to a question regarding an Amendment not before him. Until he saw the Amendment he could not possibly decide upon it. He had no Amendment before him, but undoubtedly many of the objections and criticisms which had been raised would be dealt with by Amendments to sub-section (*b*).

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that that being so, he thought they would do better not to divide at this point, but that they should raise the question on sub-section (*b*). Then they could take a division in a more decisive form.

Question put, and agreed to.

*MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor) moved to substitute "a reasonable number of parents" for "the parents of at least four-fifths." He said that the discussion which they had had showed that circumstances might arise which would make it undesirable to have a hard and fast line. There was no virtue in the particular fraction of four-fifths, and a more elastic proposal would remove many difficulties. He did not himself understand upon what ground this particular fraction had been fixed upon, and he thought they were entitled to ask for some explanation. The other day he suggested some considerations which he thought showed that facilities should be granted to a much smaller number than four-fifths of the parents. In Prussia there was a specific provision to the effect that special religious instruction should be given if it was desired for pupils to the number of twelve, which was usually a far smaller number than four-fifths of the whole school. The effect of that provision was that special religious instruction should be afforded if there was a minority of twelve pupils. In our industrial schools special denominational teaching was given in cases where the proportion was much less. At Osborne Naval College, with 420 cadets, special teaching was allowed for eighteen Roman Catholics among them, and he was assured by the authorities that there would be no difficulty in giving special denominational teaching to any cadets of the Free Churches all together. If the right hon. Gentleman's Regulations under the Act were applied to this college, however, these eighteen cadets would not have the instruction they desired. The authorities at Osborne College had told him that no hitch of any kind had occurred, and that there would be no difficulty or interference with discipline in providing special religious instruction for all the three Churches.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): Who said that?

*MR. EVELYN CECIL: The authorities

Dr. MACNAMARA: Who are the authorities?

*Mr. EVELYN CECIL: The commander and the chaplain.

Dr. MACNAMARA: Oh! The chaplain.

*Mr. EVELYN CECIL said the chaplain and those engaged in the work had actual knowledge, and although it might be easy to jeer at the working of the school, without having any knowledge of the actual facts, he put this case forward, not as a conclusive instance, but as one instance where an infinitely smaller figure than four-fifths obtained. But he should like to appeal to the specific statements made by the President of the Board of Education himself. The right hon. Gentleman had given some study to this question in an article in the *Independent Review* of October, 1903. He there wrote—

> "The parents really must, whether they like it or not, conquer their shyness, and, making their first appearance in this ancient and horrid controversy, tell us, when they send Tom and Jane to school, whether they wish them to receive any, and, if any, what, religious instruction. There is no chance of the multiplication of strange parental religions. We are not an imaginative people. Jews, Roman Catholics, Anglicans, and Dissenters (in a lump) will usually exhaust the list."

He knew that he seemed to be always engaged in bringing up the ghosts of the right hon. Gentleman's former utterances when he had not the honour of sitting in this House or upon the Treasury Bench, and they were the very arguments which were now brought forward by the Opposition. There was no merit in four-fifths, no virtue in it. What if a fluctuating local population made four-fifths possible in one month and not in the next? He ventured to submit to the Committee that it would be much better to accept his Amendment that "a reasonable number" should be substituted for "four-fifths." He suggested that the right hon. Gentleman should make the experiment. If it failed, then another method might be adopted. But there was no reason why it should fail. It had been tried in many cases with success, and in his opinion there was no reason why the Government should not accept the Amendment he now moved.

Amendment proposed—

> "In page 3, line 7, to leave out the words 'the parents of at least four-fifths,' and insert the words 'a reasonable number of parents.'"—(*Mr. Evelyn Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. BIRRELL observed that the hon. Member had quoted from something he wrote years ago. If the hon. Member would take steps that he should occupy in this country an autocratic position with power of issuing a *mandamus* every one was bound to obey, then he would undertake to deal with this religious question without any assistance or interference from the hon. Member or anybody else in the House. But the measure he was now supporting was a Government measure in which he had a part, but it was a joint operation, and he was not to be debarred by any individual expressions made some years ago, to the general purport and good sense of which, however, he still adhered. The hon. Member did not like "four-fifths." But would the hon. Member be good enough to say what was "a reasonable number?"

*Mr. EVELYN CECIL: To be ascertained in the locality.

Mr. BIRRELL did not call that a reasonable suggestion—that what was a reasonable number was to be ascertained by the local authority or by a jury. In his opinion, Parliament must assume some responsibility in this matter. Parliament must determine the conditions under which these facilities were to be granted. The Government, therefore, had chosen a number which would secure that the school, in order to have extended facilities, must be a school of an overwhelmingly denominational character. Hon. Gentlemen opposite, however, thought that wherever there was a child needing denominational instruction, that child ought to be able to get it under a national system of education. That would be a perfectly rational system, but it was not the scheme of this Bill, and it was not the scheme for which the great majority of the people of this country had voted. The hon. Member must recognise that the Government could not bring in a Bill of that description. What they had done at great pains and labour—ill-requited pains and unrecognised labour—was to introduce this Clause 4. That it was not a perfect denominational clause, he quite agreed. But still, as Dr. Johnson said about the dancing dogs—"It is not a wonder that the dog dances well—the wonder is that it dances at all!" And so with regard to this clause—the wonder was that it should be where it was at all. It was a highly exceptional clause dealing with a highly exceptional circumstance. The main circumstance was that the school to have these exceptional facilities must be beyond all question a clear denominational school. They could not have nice inquiries or fine discriminations; they had to deal coarsely by putting a large number which should prove beyond any doubt that the school was a denominational one. He was there to defend "four-fifths" simply on those grounds. There must be an overwhelming majority if the school was to continue on its way as a denominational school. The Government had constructed the clause for the benefit of schools whose character was overwhelming and not likely to change; and they must adhere to it.

*MR. BUTCHER (Cambridge University) said whatever might be said of this fraction, one thing was clear, and that was that the privileges acquired under it were of a most precarious character. The migration of a few families to another quarter of the town would destroy the proportion, all the more because four-fifths of the children were a more unstable quantity than four-fifths of the parents. Again, an influx of undenominational children into a denominational school would have a similar effect. Even a single hostile individual who desired to upset the arrangement could easily disturb the balance by bringing in a batch of children from outside. Then there was the fact that under the Bill the permission could be withdrawn at six months' notice. So that the system was set up upon the shifting basis of a constantly varying fraction, which might be four-fifths to-day and two-thirds to-morrow. He did not believe that the desired end could be attained by any rigid fraction. This four-fifths fraction opened up a new chapter in the history of religious toleration and liberty. It marked the arithmetical point at which parental wishes might assert themselves, and rights of conscience might have a voice. Why should the Government express the principle of toleration in the form of this unheard of fraction? The reason was only too apparent. The arithmetical expression was an evasive expression; it put in the language of arithmetic with seeming mathematical coldness and impartiality what the Government dared not say in plain English. What they meant was that the Church of England was not to participate in the religious liberty that was extended to other denominations; that whereas 75 per cent. of the Church of England schools were to be excluded, the Roman Catholic schools, to the extent of 75 per cent. and more, were to be included. He did not wish to rob the Roman Catholics of a single school which was now in their possession. Those schools had been built by them out of hard-won earnings and from a devoted piety, and they ought every one of them to remain without question. All he said was, let the Church of England have the equality and similar privilege to that which was given to other denominations. He did not think that Irish Members asked for exclusive privileges. He heard the hon. Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool recently insist on the claim of all creeds for religious equality. The quarrel of English Churchmen was not with the Members on the Irish Benches, with whom they were in hearty sympathy; their quarrel was with the Government, who resorted to a fraction which was not only evasive, but cowardly, and designed to strike a blow at the Church of England. From another point of view, this fraction inflicted peculiar hardship on the Established Church. The Church had set herself a great national task, before any other denomination had taken up the work of education. She had sought to educate not only her own children, but all others who wished to receive her instruction. If she had not attempted to discharge this national duty, and had not thrown wide her doors to thousands of children of other denominations who wished to partake of that education; if, on the contrary, she had taken a sectarian view of her position, and given an instruction rigidly and exclusively denominational, then she would have come within the privileges of the four-fifths clause. The fact that the Church required a smaller fraction was proof that she had been ministering to the needs of different denominations. The magnitude of her work was the measure of her offence. She was penalised for her comprehensiveness, and put under disabilities because, being the Church of the nation, she had attempted to do a national work.

One more point. The limit of "four-fifths" in this clause taken in connection with the limit of the "urban area" meant the break up of one great portion of the organised religious life of England. He knew that hon. Gentleman opposite were not inclined to look upon the voluntary schools in this light. They thought of them, absurd as was the idea, as turning out little seminaries for expert theologians. But there was another side of these voluntary schools which ought not to be ignored. The children there learnt that they belonged to a religious community, that they were members of a body; and in later years surely it was no small thing when one thought of their lonely and unsheltered lives in the great industrial centres, of their isolation and temptations, that they should be able to feel that they were members of a spiritual family, and that they had behind them a great background of fellowship and organic life, and all those mutual aids which to young people were the greatest possible help towards right living. Hon. Gentlemen opposite said, "Children cooped up in denominational pens—how can they become good citizens"? To him the argument was quite the opposite. To train the sense of corporate life was in itself a great education in citizenship, and on the whole those who were most loyal to their own denomination proved also most true in their allegiance to the community. From the point of view of the State and of its moral welfare, he maintained that they could not afford to loosen the ties that bound people to the religious organisations to which they belonged, and the words now under discussion did tend to loosen and to dissolve that vital bond.

Mr. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash) said he could tell the Minister for Education what a reasonable number was. It seemed to him that one-half was distinctly a reasonable number. The limit in the Bill allowed considerable advantages to Roman Catholics, but it also inflicted considerable disadvantages on the Church of England. Grievances which were peculiar to the Church of England were not receiving the same attention from the Government that other grievances were, and he asserted that their grievances would not be attended to unless they pointed out that Roman Catholics had serious grievances in this matter too. He thought the limitation distinctly excluded from the operation of the clause a great majority of the schools of the Church of England. Many Members had hoped that under this clause they would see the redemption of the pledges made by Ministers up and down the country, but every Amendment was being rejected and every shred of hope taken from them. They were left in the position, if this limitation were passed, that a large number of their schools had only obtained the so-called miserable advantages under Clause 3. They were placed under a serious disadvantage. They could not in view of the great majority against them protest effectively in this House. They must leave it to another place, if they thought fit, to remodel this clause until the elements of justice appeared in it. The arbitrary limitation was absolutely unjustified, and he hoped it would suffer the fate it deserved, at the hands either of this or of some other Parliament.

Mr. POWER (Waterford, E.) could not under stand why the Government was so wedded to this clause. According to the hon. and learned Member for South Longford, it would ruin no less than 235 of the Catholic schools as they at present existed. He at first thought that that was rather an exaggeration, and he had taken the trouble to visit three schools in the neighbourhood in which he lodged.

Those three visits more than confirmed the accuracy of his hon. and learned friend's statement. The first school was in Kensington Square, kept by Catholic nuns. It was a small school with only 114 children on the roll, and out of that number there were twenty-eight Protestants. Therefore, although the school had been built with Catholic money for the education of Catholic children, it would cease to be a Catholic school, because if it came to a question of voting, a number of the parents of the children would decline to vote. Consequently there would not be the majority necessary to enable the school to be continued as at present. The second case he inquired into was at Fulham. He had also visited the schools connected with the Oratory Church. He took those schools because they were the nearest to him. They were very large schools built at a cost of £20,000. In the girls' school there were 165 girls, and twenty-two of them were not Catholics; whilst there were 180 in the infants' school, forty-five of them not being Catholics. That gave sixty-seven of these children as non-Catholic, and applying the four-fifths rule these big schools, built largely by the pence of the poor, would cease to be Catholic schools, and they would be giving a kind of education there which was never intended by the founders. The first duty of the State was to see that a proper education was given to all classes of the community, and if the State failed in that respect it failed in regard to one of its most important functions. They believed in a Catholic atmosphere in the schools because they believed that it had a good influence on the minds of the young. He maintained that unless the proposed fraction was altered, they would be doing a great injury to the poorest of the poor. The people of this country never did understand Catholic tenets and principles, but Catholics were proud of the sacrifices made in the past by the poor people who had gone before them. They hoped to be able to keep the schools created by those who had been expelled from their own country, and every effort would be used to secure the perpetuation of schools founded by the self-sacrifice of their own countrymen. Hence they would oppose this four-fifths clause.

LORD MORPETH said they had been told that this was an honest Bill. Although many hon. Members on the Ministerial side had declared that they were anxious to give genuine facilities to those who desired definite religious teaching, nevertheless many barriers were interposed between that promise and its realisation. So many difficulties had been placed in the way that in many cases it would be impossible to obtain such teaching. Four-fifths was an exceedingly high proportion. The Minister for Education had asked what was a reasonable proportion. At any rate he should say that it ought to be less than four-fifths, but he was in favour of leaving the matter to the local authority to determine. He was aware that some hon. Members regarded local authorities with a certain amount of suspicion, but his experience of them was that they were far more tolerant than the majority on the Ministerial side of the House. There was hardly a local authority in the country that would refuse to give the facilities permitted by this Bill, and even more than was proposed by the Government. The local authority upon which he had the honour of serving had through the County Council Committee asked that the limitations in Clause 4 should be struck out. He felt sure that if the question was left to the local authorities they would give a far more liberal-minded interpretation than the Government had done. Why not leave it to the local authority to determine whether there was a genuine demand to continue the denominational nature of the school? According to the law as it stood it had not in the past been in the power of denominational schools to refuse to admit the children of other denominations, and for that reason there were in the Catholic and Anglican schools of Great Britain a good many children who did not belong to those particular churches. Would it not be a great hardship upon those churches, which had been doing the work of the State and educating the children of all classes who were sent to them, if they were penalised and told under this Bill that they were not to give definite religious teaching in these schools? All those who had had any experience of administering education before the year 1902 knew that although the children might be sent to any school in which places were vacant, yet in Roman Catholic schools those places were not always considered available, and school boards were allowed to build extra schools, although at the time there were places available in the Catholic schools. With regard to the Church of England schools no such considerations held good, and they had a large number of children who did not belong to that church at all. He thought that fact alone ought to induce the Government to give a generous recognition of these services, and not to insist upon placing the proportion so high as four-fifths. Accordingly, he was in favour of leaving to the local authorities the definition of "a reasonable number," feeling assured that it would be fixed by them at less than four-fifths.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND hoped the Government would yield so far at least as to substitute "three-fourths" for "four-fifths." He had the fullest confidence in the desire of the Minister for Education to do what was reasonable and fair, but surely it was not fair or reasonable to say that unless four-fifths of the children attending a denominational school were of its particular denomination the religious character of the school should be entirely changed? He thought the President of the Board of Education ought to make some Amendment which would safeguard these schools against an undoubted injustice. He did not see anything particularly magical in the fraction four-fifths. If the vote did not show four-fifths, would the Solicitor-General say that it was a fair and reasonable thing that the whole character of the school should be altered, and that the opinion of the great majority of parents should be ignored? He firmly believed that it was the intention of the President of the Board of Education to deal perfectly frankly and fairly by the denominational schools in this matter, and to keep them denominational if the great majority of the parents wished it. His point was that it would be a monstrous thing in regard to a Catholic school, where there were nearly four-fifths who desired that extended facilities should be given, that the facilities should be refused simply because there were five or six votes less than the required number. The words "a reasonable number of parents" in the Amendment might not be the proper words to use. They were very vague, and might give rise to a great deal of trouble, but he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to take some step in order that Catholic schools which were very nearly up to the four-fifths should not be penalised because of the absence of a voter here and there, and because the schools had so recommended themselves that the children of parents belonging to other denominations were sent to them. There were many such schools, conducted by nuns and under the supervision of priests, where there were numbers of Protestant children, on the clear and honourable understanding that nothing should be done to change their religion—an understanding always most scrupulously carried out. He asked the Minister for Education to see whether it was not possible to insert some Amendment which would prevent this hard-and-fast provision from excluding from extended facilities schools which were serving their purpose properly, not only in the eyes of Catholics, but in the eyes of a considerable number of Protestants as well. Reference had been made to what mysterious people in "another place" were going to do to this Bill. He dissociated himself entirely from hon. Gentlemen above the gangway on the Opposition side who were always threatening the Government in that way. It was an intolerable thing that the representatives of the people should be threatened and badgered as to what was going to be done in another place. He did not like it at all, but if a reasonable thing was not done here, undoubtedly it would be done in another place. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to safeguard these schools against an undoubted injustice, and do nothing to bolster up another place.

Mr. BIRRELL assured the hon. Gentleman that he most firmly believed that the Protestant parents who sent their children for well-defined comprehensible reasons to Roman Catholic schools because of their praiseworthy excellence would be found among those who would vote for those schools continuing to be conducted as before. A child of his own attended for many years a Roman Catholic school; he received the utmost kindness there; and he looked back upon the time he spent there, and always would do, as among the happiest periods of his life. He was now in New Zealand, and, as far as he could discover, he was to-day the strongest of Protestants. If while his child was there he himself could have been called upon to exercise the *referendum*, he should certainly have expressed his opinion at the ballot box that the school should continue as it was, unaltered in any respect. Therefore, he could not agree that Protestant parents would abstain from expressing their opinion in the like sense as opportunity should arise. He agreed that it would be a great miscarriage of justice if a school was deprived of facilities under this clause by reason of the fact that a number of children who belonged to another denomination went to it. As to the four-fifths, he could not in any way go back upon what he had said. The greatest possible pressure had been put upon him by persons whose views he did not share, who had pointed out that the number of Anglican schools that would be benefited under this provision was very large. He did not mind how large it was. The number of actual schools that would fall within the purview of this clause was much more numerous in the case of the Church of England than in that of the Church of Rome. It was with that object they wanted Clause 4 to operate as widely as possible within the limits which appeared on the Bill as drafted. He could not hold out any hope that the proportion would be reduced.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN (Birmingham, W.) said he doubted very much whether the hon. Gentleman the Member for Waterford would derive much comfort from the interesting personal experience which had just been related by the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education, and which led him to believe that Protestants attending Catholic schools would after this Act was passed go out of their way to ask that exceptional treatment should be given to those schools. All he could say was that that seemed to indicate to him a great amount of religious liberality and toleration, but not any very strenuous Protestantism.

MR. BIRRELL: Why not? If any person for whom I am responsible is sent to a Catholic school, I do not know that that interferes with my position.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN said he dared say not. He always understood that the object of establishing a denominational and especially a Church school was to promote in the minds of the children an attachment to the denominational religion for which the school had been created. When the right hon. Gentleman spoke as to his readiness to accept for his own children Roman Catholic teaching, would he in the event of this Bill being passed petition that the Roman Catholic teaching should be continued in the school? He confessed he did not know on what authority the right hon. Gentleman could imagine that there would be no tampering with the Protestant faith of his son in a Catholic school. On the contrary he should have thought that the mere atmosphere of the school would have tended to sap the Protestant faith of his son.

MR. BIRRELL: It did not have that result on my son.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN said he should doubt whether that son was, as they were told, a very strong Protestant.

MR. BIRRELL: A good Protestant.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN said he doubted very much whether the son would support the policy which was now supported by his father. But this seemed to him to be rather humorous than serious.

MR. BIRRELL: There is nothing humorous about it.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN said it did not afford to his mind an assurance that the people who attended these denominational schools and did not agree with the denominational teaching in them would go out of their way to ask that the denominational teaching should be continued. He did not think that any such argument as that could be sustained even if supported by the personal experience of the right hon. Gentleman. At the same time let him say to the hon. Gentleman the Member for Waterford that they on the Opposition benches entirely understood his position. He had made it perfectly clear that the Irish Party did not care for the Anglican case, but for their own case, which they were specially called upon to defend.

*MR. BYLES: Are you an Anglican?

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN asked what had that got to do with it? He was puzzled to know in what possible way the hon. Gentleman made that observation relevant to the argument.

*MR. BYLES: I asked for information as to in what way you differentiate what you call "our case" from the case of the Roman Catholics.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN said he perfectly understood that the hon. Gentleman and the Irish Nationalist Party differentiated the cases, and that while they argued for their own position they did not carry the argument so far as to include the case of those who desired Protestant denominational teaching. They on that side of the House were more liberal, because all they asked for themselves they were ready to concede to Roman Catholics and other denominations.

MR. DILLON: Clause 3 is of no use to us. [Cries of "Oh."]

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN said that what he was arguing for now was the inclusion in Clause 4 of all schools which were proved to be denominational, whether Catholic or Anglican. What the Opposition asked for was justice and full reciprocity on the part of the Irish Members. The great importance of this discussion was the light it showed on the genesis of the Bill. For himself, speaking as a Unitarian, he said that he was not one of those who had ever attached the great importance so many of his friends did to denominational teaching. He had said in public and in this House that he had never taken exception to the ordinary teaching given under the Cowper-Temple clause. He must say that with such experience as he had had of the working classes of the country he thought the great bulk of them were not so greatly interested as many people imagined in what was called sectarian teaching. That was not a new statement on his part. But if that experience of his was accepted to that extent perhaps his experience would be accepted a little further. There was one thing on which they might always appeal to the democracy of this country, and that was the eternal principles of common justice. He opposed this Bill because he thought that it was unjust, and there was no clause of it which was more distinctively unjust than Clause 4; and no part of the clause was more unjust than the particular limitation of the four-fifths provision which had been ingeniously introduced in order to include the Catholic and exclude the Anglican schools. Did hon. Members think that when, sooner or later, this matter was again carried to the country—as it would be—they could persuade those who cared nothing whatever about denominations that it was a just arrangement which allowed to Catholic schools in the proportion of three-fourths certain privileges which were withheld from Anglican Protestant schools? If they did, they would find themselves very much mistaken. But there was another injustice. The reason the Government were making for the exceptions to Clause 4 was that there were a number of parents who desired denominational teaching—Catholic or Anglican. How could they justly say that because a man sent his children to a school where 80 per cent. were of one denomination the children should have the religious instruction the parents desired, but that it should be denied if only 79 per cent. were of that one denomination? He was sure that the men in the street, who, after all, dictated the policy of the country, would not support such an injustice. They would say that there must be some intention quite different from that which was avowedly on the face of those proceedings. The hon. Member for Cambridge University had put with great force the peculiar hardship of some denominational schools that were to be punished because of their liberalism and generosity to others outside those for whose special benefit the schools had been built. He would give an illustration of which he personally knew the facts. A large denominational school had recently been built at great expense entirely for denominational purposes—Church of England—and in that school one-third of the pupils were Nonconformists. Therefore that school would not come within the four-fifths provision, although there were board schools, Wesleyan schools, and Roman Catholic schools all round. The Nonconformist pupils only went to the Church of England school because the secular education was better there than in the others. He was not blaming them in the least, but under this clause the fact that those pupils chose to go to this denominational school would deprive it of the benefits of Clause 4. That was unjust. Supposing the managers of the school, knowing what would happen, were to say before the Bill passed that they would no longer accept the Nonconformist children in the Church school? What would be the result? Some of the parents would recognise the justice of that decision and would send their children to the public elementary or the Nonconformist school. Others might appeal to the Board of Education and claim that their children should be received in schools in which religious instruction was given of which they disapproved. Could the Board of Education in justice force these children back into the Church schools, and six months afterwards allow the parents of these children to vote against the continuance of the instruction for which the school was established? The proposition in the Bill was absolutely indefensible. No such policy could possibly afford a permanent settlement. He did not threaten hon. Members with what might happen elsewhere, but sooner or later the Government would have to go to the people who, they said, had given them their mandate. He should like very much to have that opportunity. Dr. Clifford, whose personal acquaintance he did not enjoy, but who appeared to speak of him generally by his Christian name, said at a public meeting the other day, "They all knew what Joey wanted." He was not certain that Dr. Clifford knew all that he wanted, but he was quite right if he thought he wanted a general election on this point as soon as possible. He almost challenged hon. Members to agree with him that the result of such an election would not constitute anything like unanimous approval of a policy which on the face of it was unjust, unreasonable, unfair, and could not be defended.

MR. GIBBS (Bristol, W.) said the provisions of the Bill were very drastic, and it seemed to him that under them these schools would be diverted from the main object for which they were built. Those who were responsible for them would be denied the just right to give that religious teaching to which those attending the schools had always been accustomed. A great deal had been said about the safeguards which were going to be given to the voluntary schools under this clause, but when they came to be considered they appeared to him to be absolutely illusory. It seemed to him that the proportion of four-fifths could apply only to schools where the children in attendance were all of one denomination. In other cases the minority would be able to prevent any denominational teaching at all being given. He could very well imagine how, if this Bill became law, there would be no more denominational teaching. The right hon. Gentleman and his supporters denied that the Bill was an attack upon the Church of England. He could only say that he wished that they on the Opposition side of the House could avoid believing that it was such an attack. But what other conclusion could they come to if this proportion of four-fifths was persisted in? The Church of England had many schools, and in numbers of them there were children of all denominations, but unless four-fifths of the parents of the children desired it denominational teaching could not be given. He felt sure that this provision would exclude denominational teaching from hundreds if not thousands of Church schools. Surely where the parents of half the scholars desired to have denominational religious instruction it should be given as before. Eighty per cent. was too large a percentage, and if it was persisted in in one school the children there would get denominational teaching, while in another of a precisely similar character they would not obtain it, although the children of the Anglican denomination constituted the great majority of the children attending it. He thought the clause was built upon a very shifting foundation. There were cases, moreover, in which, although the schools might obtain the privilege at first, shortly afterwards the four-fifths might be reduced to three-fourths, and they would lose the right of giving denominational religious teaching. The percentage was so great that it appeared to him to be altogether unreasonable, and he appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to insert the fraction of one-half, or if he could not do that, something more reasonable than four-fifths.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 312; Noes, 142. (Division List No. 158.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.)
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire)
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)

Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, HughCecil(St.Pancras,E.)
Leese, SirJosephF(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W.H.(Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H.Rendall(Lincoln)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio

Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk,Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Price, C.E.(Edinb'gh,Central)
Price, RobertJohn(Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt.Hn.E.(Dundee)
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands. J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Chas.E.(Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.

Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel(Carmarthen,E.)
Thomas, SirA.(Glamorgan,E.)
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, SirJohnL.(Leeds,S.)
Ward, John(StokeuponTrent)
Ward, W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene(Clackmannan)
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, HenryJ.(York,W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras,S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, SirJT(Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork,N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt.Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, RtHn.A.J.(CityLond.)
Baring, Hon.Guy(Winchester)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)

Beach, Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.

Carlile, E. Hildred
Cecil, Evelyn (Ashton Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R.(Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hon.J.(Birm.
Clancy, John Joseph
Coates, E.Feetham(Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon.Thos.H.A.E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Courthope, G. Loyd
Cox, Harold

Craik, Sir Henry
Crean, Eugene
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Devlin CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dillon, John
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duffy, William J.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Ginnell, L.
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrington, Timothy
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Helmsley, Viscount
Hogan, Michael
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt.Hn.SirJohnH.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
King, SirHenrySeymour(Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lee, ArthurH.(Hants.,Fareham
Long, Col.CharlesW.(Evesham)
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.)
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, JohnThrogmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Mooney, J. J.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Wm.G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Rt.Hn.JG.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.) in moving to insert after the word "schools," in line 8, the words "whose parents voted in the ballot," said that his object was to remove the difficulty which arose previously when the right hon. Gentleman explained the principle of the ballot and the method by which the decision should be arrived at. The right hon. Gentleman's suggestion was that they should reverse the usual practice in all matters of election and allow the question to be decided by those who did not vote. When a question was to be decided by ballot it seemed to him a contradiction in terms to say that the decision should be arrived at by those who took no part in it. The proposals of the clause meant that the *status* of the schools would be altered. That being so, he thought that those who desired to alter their *status* should have the courage of their convictions and vote for the change. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 8, after the word 'schools,' to insert the words 'whose parents voted in the ballot'."—(*Sir Thomas Esmonde.*)

Question proposed "That those words be inserted."

MR. DILLON said the Solicitor-General had just now stated that if a voter did not go to an election he was ignored. That was just the point. If a man did not vote he should not be regarded, and that was the exact purport of the Amendment. When an election took place for this purpose those who did not vote ought to be treated as non-existent, and the only parents they had a right to consider when they adopted the method of the ballot were those who voted. The Amendment was the logical consequence of the ballot. As the clause originally stood there was provided a perfectly elastic method of inquiry which might be presumed to be an exhaustive inquiry as to the views of the parents. There was nothing in the clause to prevent the local authority taking a week or a fortnight to discover the views of the parents or to give time to those who were absent or sick to have their views ascertained. But when they introduced a ballot which must take place between certain specified hours and in a certain specified place they altered the whole condition of the problem and increased against those who demanded facilities the necessary proportion, because in order to produce at the ballot a proportion of four-fifths it would be necessary to have five-sixths or seven-eighths of the voters to secure the four-fifths if the whole of the parents were to be taken into account. He gathered from the statement of the right hon. Gentleman that it was the intention of the Government to count as against the granting of facilities everybody who did not vote. He himself thought the proportion of those who would be unable to vote at a given time would be exceedingly large. Workmen were not masters of their own time. A man engaged in the building trade might be at the other end of the country on a job. He could not see that the right hon. Gentleman had advanced a single argument in favour of his project of counting all those who did not vote as against these facilities. Would it not be more just and more generous to count them as in favour of the facilities. That would, he thought, be far more reasonable, because those who objected to them would be sure to come up and record their objection. Therefore, if those who did not vote were to be counted at all, they should be counted as being in favour of the clause. That, however, was not the Amendment before the Committee. The Amendment of his hon. friend imported common sense into this question and only said that if resort was made to the ballot the question should be governed by the ordinary laws of the ballot.

MR. BIRRELL said that the effect of this Amendment had been discussed some time ago, and another Amendment was to be moved on sub-section (*b*). He was sorry that there was this difference of opinion. He had never assumed that it would arise, because he thought that the point was perfectly plain. The Committee was not dealing with an ordinary election, but with a clause which imposed on certain persons, if they were anxious to obtain special facilities, the duty of accurately expressing their desire that these special facilities should be granted. He now saw that hon. Members opposite took another view. The essence of the matter was that these additional facilities should be obtained by an active expression of a desire on the part of the parents, and, therefore, it was not possible for the Government to accede to the Amendment. He agreed that every precaution must be taken to see that the wishes of the parents were expressed and that it would be a monstrous thing that, because a man was absent from home, the mother, who was looking after the children, should not have the right of representing him in the ballot. It was intended that the mother should have this right, and he hoped that there would be no difficulty about that point. The only other point of hardship was that a certain number of parents might have been prevented from expressing their opinions, and that it would be wrong to assume that such parents insisted upon having accommodation for their children elsewhere. Until he saw the Amendment that was to be moved he would content himself by saying that words could be inserted to make it plain that at the public inquiry any parent who did not vote in the ballot would have an opportunity to be represented and to indicate that he had no desire for accommodation for his child. The authority in charge of the public inquiry would be able to deal with the actual facts of the case, and would be able to ascertain what public accommodation was needed. But he adhered to the view he had always expressed, that there was an obligation imposed on the parents to make known their desires, and they could not assume in that respect that silence gave consent.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) said the President of the Board of Education expected from human nature what had never occurred in the whole history of mankind. Wherever voting took place and under whatever circumstances it took place there would always be a large percentage of voters who would not trouble to record their opinions. He took the case of the electoral contests in the north of Ireland. He doubted whether there was any place in the world where there was such a fanatical desire on the part of men to record their votes Let them take West Belfast, for instance, which was one of the great electoral battle grounds on the north of Ireland. Had 100 per cent. of the electors ever recorded their votes there? He believed the record on one occasion was 96 per cent. and everybody thought that a perfect marvel. Now the right hon Gentleman proposed that not 90 or 95 per cent. but 100 per cent. of the people must record their votes on this question on one side. The minority was more likely to be indifferent than active. The Minister for Education was aware that the number of Protestant children in the Catholic schools was large. When in Wales the other day, in the very heart of the Nonconformist country, he was told there was a Catholic school which had many Protestant children attending it. Therefore they were face to face with this extraordinary situation, that because a Catholic school rightly or wrongly attracted a large number of Protestant children the Catholic parents must vote 100 per cent. while the Protestant parents were not called upon to vote. He thought the proposition had only to be stated in order to show its absurdity. It was perfectly reasonable that the desire for additional facilities should be genuine and active, but between that and the statement that every single one in favour of these additional facilities must vote and would vote was the gap between human nature according to the dreams of the romancer and human nature in reality. A French statesman once said that the majority of men were either sluggards, cowards, or rogues. He would not accept the proposition, but he thought inactivity and apathy were very strong attributes of human nature. The Protestant parents were more likely not to vote than to vote. The Minister for Education seemed rather to admire the Protestant parent who sent his child to a Roman Catholic school, but there were two points of view in regard to that. He should certainly not advise the Catholic parent who had the opportunity of sending his child to a Catholic school to send it to a Protestant school. That would show an ignoble view of the highest considerations of religion. Therefore, so far as this Protestant minority was concerned, they began with a number of people who were indifferent in the matter of religious feeling, and that being so, the probability was in favour of their not voting and the more difficult it would make the case for the Catholics. No man felt more strongly than he did the extraordinary spirit of sacrifice Catholics in this country had made for the erection of their schools, and they would make every effort to retain them. But to say that 100 per cent. would vote was too much. The proposal of his hon. friend was a fair compromise. Let the test be the number of parents who actually voted.

Lord BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley) said the Opposition were ready to support the Amendment which had just been placed before the Committee. He really thought that the position taken up by the President of the Board of Education was quite untenable. They were not dealing with an ordinary election. In this case if any person failed to vote, for whatever reason, whether apathy, illness, or absence, that fact would militate against facilities being granted. They could not but remember that in the old days of the School Board elections the average poll was 25 per cent. In 1902, when it was proposed to substitute another authority for the school boards, it was said that the reason why the large balance of the electors did not record their votes was that they were satisfied, and that they did not think it necessary to record their votes. He did not think the parents of other denominations who sent their children to Catholic or Church of England schools would care to state in writing whether they approved of the Roman Catholic or the Church of England creeds or *vice versa*. He felt sure that those parents would not desire to state on paper whether they approved of those doctrines or not.

Mr. BIRRELL: There is no question of dogma in it at all. The questions put to the parents will not involve in any form religious beliefs.

Lord BALCARRES said he was glad to have that assurance. This provision required not merely an 80 per cent. majority of those actually voting, but substantially a unanimous vote of everybody concerned before the facilities could be obtained, and that was really a very great hardship on those who wished to maintain denominational teaching. The President of the Board of Education had stated, "We all desire that these facilities, if they are facilities at all, shall be real and not a sham." He felt that the limitations were so serious and onerous that the facilities offered under such conditions really would be of very small avail, if not entirely useless.

*MR. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth) said he did not think that the Catholic Church need feel any grave anxiety on account of this particular provision in rural districts. The district which he represented had in it five Catholic schools and four of them were small village schools which would not be affected. The only urban district which would be affected had a Catholic school with only thirty-four children. The singular thing was that the four Catholic schools in the four villages which would be affected by Clause 3 had each a larger number of Catholic children than the school in the urban district which would come under the purview of this clause. So that in regard to this clause which was intended to benefit the Catholic Church the practical effect would be that four of the schools would get no benefit at all, and the urban district school with thirty-four children in attendance would alone benefit. He did not, however, think it would be any use giving the protection of the ballot, and then encouraging a lot of people to make an inquiry to discover how they had voted, or even to discover whether they had voted or not. It would not be in accordance with the principle of the ballot if they allowed a canvass to discover whether they had voted or not in order that their views might be submitted to some local inquiry. The clause was extremely unpopular and would cause no end of trouble.

MR. SHACKLETON said his only fear was that they were going to have far too much for and against upon this question. It would be a very dangerous thing to have a state of things under which the electors would have to decide for or against a Church or a Catholic school. All this appeared to him to be absolutely unnecessary. The groundwork of the Bill, as he understood it, was to have ordinary schools under the Cowper-Temple principle. Clause 4 granted an exception in regard to schools which could prove that they had four-fifths of the parents in favour of facilities. If such a question was put in his district he should not vote at all, because he did not want the exception, and that appeared to him to be a reasonable position to take up. If only those voted under this clause who were required to express an opinion then a majority of 80 per cent. would settle the question. That to him was a common-sense reading of the proposal. The Minister for Education had never said that the other 20 per cent. should be deducted, although he did say that the number who did not vote would be an indication that they did not want those facilities. At the public inquiry, if any parent could show that he was absent for any just reason which prevented him voting, and that he was in favour of this clause being made operative, no public authority would refuse to take his vote. The position would be that he would have to prove that he was unable to register his vote on the occasion when the ballot was taken. Certainly a register should be kept of those who had voted.

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster) said this was really the right place for an Amendment of this kind to come in. The Minister for Education had suggested postponing it to another part of the clause; but it was necessary to define what was meant by the words "the parents of four-fifths of the children," and the Amendment did that. The hon. Member for the Clitheroe Division seemed to think that it was a very simple matter, but he would put this question to him: Supposing there was a law or regulation which said that a grant of money by a local authority for certain purposes must be sanctioned by a two-thirds majority, would that mean two-thirds of those voting or two-thirds of the whole body?

MR. SHACKLETON: That is for and against—a different thing altogether.

*Mr. BURDETT-COUTTS: Not at all. The question is: Does it mean two-thirds of the whole local authority, or two-thirds of the members who vote?

Mr. SHACKLETON: Two-thirds of the people who vote, certainly.

*Mr. BURDETT-COUTTS said the hon. Member had answered that it meant two-thirds of the people who voted. That was exactly what the supporters of the Amendment wished to have. Four-fifths of the parents—he used the shortest phrase—should be defined as meaning four-fifths of the parents who voted on the question. That appeared to him to be the only fair way of getting at an accurate estimate which would enable a decision to be come to. He would venture to give the Committee an illustration, drawn from his own experiences. Some years ago before the extinction of the Metropolitan Board of Works, he was engaged in a project of public benefit, which required a large sum of money. This had to be obtained from various public sources, and all the contributions were made dependent on a contribution from a vestry. They carried the proposal by a two-thirds majority of those present, and voting at a meeting of the vestry. Then it was objected that a two-thirds majority, not of those voting, but of the whole vestry, was required to sanction the expenditure. The law left the matter in doubt, and for want of a clear definition of the words "a two-thirds majority" the whole project was hung up for some time. He submitted that no such doubt ought to attach to this clause, and therefore he supported the Amendment. He could not find any logical reason put forward by the Government for treating the ballot in this matter on different lines from the ballot in every other matter in which it was resorted to in this country. As to the remarks of the Solicitor-General, they only led to the conclusion that we ought to amend our electoral system so that in future a candidate should be elected to this House by the majority of the constituency and not by the majority of those who voted. That was the principle applied in this Bill, and it seemed to him altogether unreasonable, illogical, confusing and likely to leave a legal doubt about the meaning of the words.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND said he was certain that, so far as Catholics were concerned, the matter was of such importance that the vote would be exhaustive; but he thought the Amendment of his hon. friend should be supported, not because it was required, but to safeguard cases of what would be undoubted hardship and injustice if a man who was unable to register his vote was to be regarded as opposed to what in reality everyone knew he desired. When he was in Australia last year one of the things most largely commented upon to the detriment of the Labour Party there was that a small percentage of the electors went to the poll, and it was assumed that those who did not take the trouble to vote were against the Labour Party. Nothing could be more untrue. The vast majority of those who did not vote were in sympathy with the Labour Party, and they did not go to the poll because of the distance, or because it was unnecessary to swell the majority, or because they were prevented from voting by the conditions of their ordinary everyday life. The proposition here laid down, that a man who did not vote for a proposition must necessarily be against it, was a new and dangerous doctrine, and he did not subscribe to it. The Government wanted to put the Catholic elector in this position. If he was prevented from registering his vote at a stated time and place, he was to be regarded as against the suggestion that the religion in which he believed should be taught to his children in the school. It was an unfair suggestion, and one which would work with great injustice in the case of many people. The Government ought to reconsider the matter. What could be fairer than the Amendment which said that the votes which were cast should count, and that the votes which were not cast should not count? He did not know why the Government should lay down the astounding proposition that every man who did not register his vote must be taken to be against the proposition voted on.

MR. GARDNER (Berkshire, Wokingham) said there had been some confusion in the discussion. They were not to have a ballot at all. They were to have a mixture of open voting and ballot voting. Moreover, the parents were not counted, but the children. The vote in the ballot was to be valued according to the number of children a parent had in the school. The result would be very curious. In a school of 200 children, if ten parents, each with four children, did not vote, it would vitiate the whole election, and the rest of the parents could not have what they wanted. The only way out of the difficulty was that those who wished to express their opinion as to what should be done should give their votes personally, and only their votes should be counted.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent) said he understood that the whole tendency and meaning of the clause was to give to the parents representing four-fifths of the children attending the school an opportunity of secretly registering their request for special facilities. He did not understand that there was to be a canvass of all the parents to ask them to give a vote for or against, because that would breed bad feeling. It was a subject which ought not to be under discussion in any shape or form. The Amendment was absolutely absurd.

MR. H. R. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire, Spalding) said he could not see what good the ballot was to be if it was only to register "for," and not "against." He himself had seen letters which had been sent to parents by their children from school, saying that it was the desire of the Government to get rid of the Bible out of the schools and asking the parents to vote against any such decision. He believed any amount of influence would be brought to bear on parents not to vote against. That was pernicious, and that was why they wanted the ballot to enable the people, under the secrecy of the ballot, to vote for or against the proposal. If all those who did not vote were [to be brought up to a public inquiry to give their reason as to why they did not vote, then indeed there was an end of the ballot. He hoped the Government would continue the policy of the ballot right through to the end, and that they would not weaken. Some Members of the Ministerial Party viewed with alarm the concessions already made; they had all gone one way, and he hoped that the right of the parents to speak by the ballot, without the eye of the clergyman or the trustees being upon them, would be preserved.

SIR W. ROBSON said he wanted to say a word on the functions of the inquiry which was to be held after the ballot had taken place. There were two elements to be ascertained—not only the wishes of the parents in regard to facilities, but also the number of parents who desired other accommodation. The number of absentees from the ballot would be smaller than the number usual in an ordinary election, the regulations being drawn up for the purpose of giving every opportunity for the wishes of parents to be ascertained. So much did the noble Lord the Member for Chorley fear that his co-religionists would not come up to the ballot, that he said that if this Amendment were not passed the facilities given to the Church of England schools would be worthless. According, then, to the opinion of the noble Lord, the parents in the Church of England did not care for the facilities.

LORD BALCARRES said he gave most emphatic repudiation to that remark.

SIR W. ROBSON said that the noble Lord could not deny that that was the effect of his words. He had got the words down. Let the Committee consider what the effect of them was. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham in speaking of denominational schools made a statement with which they were all familiar, but he doubted very much whether the country and the Committee had weighed its importance. The right hon. Gentleman said that he had no sympathy with those who laid stress upon ordinary facilities. That was an attitude which seemed to be shared by the hon. Member for East Mayo, who said that the ordinary facilities were of no advantage to them, but they must have distinct facilities.

The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, therefore, sympathised with those who said that the ordinary facilities were of no use, because he said that what the denominationalists desired was not merely the teaching of their special creeds, but that there should be something mysterious, unstable and intangible, which formed the atmosphere of the school and which they wished to preserve.

Lord R. CECIL rose to order and asked if this argument had anything to do with the Amendment.

Sir W. ROBSON said he would not pursue the matter further if the noble Lord objected, especially as he felt that he was taking up time which might be used by Members of the Opposition. All that he would say was that they had also to consider this "atmosphere" in regard to the minority. They had to consider it not only in regard to the four-fifths, but also in regard to the one-fifth, who, it seemed, were *ex hypothesi* to be kept in an atmosphere which was dangerous to their creed.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND said that those children could go to places where their own creed was taught.

Sir W. ROBSON said the hon. Member was not quite right, because they were dealing with schools which were part of a national system of education, and many of the children were there under compulsion. Therefore they ought not only to consider the four-fifths, but the one fifth.

Mr. RAWLINSON (Cambridge University) appealed to the Government to reconsider their attitude to this Amendment and thus avoid doing the injustice to the scheme of the Bill in its original form, and also to the managers of voluntary schools. This scheme of the ballot was introduced at the last moment and it seemed to him that it was indifferently understood by hon. Members and by the Government. His view was that a ballot based on a special register such as that provided by the Government's Amendments on the Paper was absolutely inapplicable in a case of this kind. Unless they could obtain the votes, not of 80 per cent of the parents who were interested, many of whom might have removed from the district during the six months before the ballot was taken, but of 80 per cent of the people on this special register, the clause would become inoperative. Great injustice would be done to the denominational schools if the Amendment was not adopted.

*__Mr. NIELD__ (Middlesex, Ealing) said they were still left in a state of considerable doubt and obscurity as to the meaning of the word "parents," in relation to this ballot which was suggested and by this clause intended to be set up. We had had a variety of electoral systems, but we had never had such a machinery as was now suggested by the Government for ascertaining the views of the majority of the parents of the children. It seemed to him that the Government had set up an artificially constructed ballot in order to make the position of the parents who desired the continuance of denominational teaching as difficult as possible. He ventured to say that a system in which the number of persons who had not recorded their votes was to be taken into account had never been known in the electoral system of this country.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 158; Noes, 295. (Division List No. 159.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex F.
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt Hn A. J. (City Lond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barnes, G. N.
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.

Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Clancy, John Joseph
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Courthope, G. Loyd
Cox, Harold
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Cross, Alexander
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galway
Dillon, John
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, Robert (Lanark Govan
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Ginnell, L.
Glover, Thomas
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, Laurence (Kent Ashford
Harrington, Timothy
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Hogan, Michael
Houston, Robert Paterson
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kelley, George D.
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lockwood, Rt Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Paul, Herbert
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rawlinson, John Fredrick P.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seddon, J.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Starkey, John R.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Valentia, Viscount
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Captain Donelan.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Beale, W. P.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire)
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N. E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt Hn. James (Aberdeen)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.

Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Davies, David(MontgomeryCo.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt.Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B.(Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)

Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire)
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil(St.Pancras,E.)
Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington.
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J. M.(FalkirkB'ghs)
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall(Lincoln)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts,Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir G. (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk,Eye
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford,E.
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)

Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpton.
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee)
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward(Salisbury
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E.
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward, W.Dudley(Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J.H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarthen
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, H. J. (York, W.R.)

Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras,S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,Sir J.T.(Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Lord R. CECIL said he desired to move the Amendment standing in the name of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin—to leave out the words "public schools" from the first line of paragraph (*b*). The object was that it should not be necessary to find for the children of the minority another school altogether, provided that sufficient accommodation was afforded either in the four-fifths school itself or somewhere else, for giving them the religious instruction they required. The object of paragraph (*b*) was quite plain. The theory of the paragraph was that in single school areas it was not fair that the school should be a four-fifths school, or, in other words that there must be provision for the teaching of a Nonconformist child other than in a Church school. Something would have to be done to alter the clause as it stood. What did it amount to? That where three-fourths of the children were members of the Church of England and one-quarter members of the Nonconformist body then they could take from the three-fourths the religious instruction they desired and force upon them the religious instruction which only one-fourth of the children attending the school desired. That did not appear to him to be justice. It was the duty of the Government as far as possible to provide that no child attending a public elementary school should suffer in any way by this Bill in the matter of religious instruction, and to see that every child should receive the religious instruction that its parents desired. If the Amendment were carried no doubt that idea would be nearly secured. The only solution which hon. Members would be compelled to adopt sooner or later, unless they accepted what was proposed in this Amendment, would be one involving purely secular teaching. In that way they would as nearly as possible secure all children against the injustice of receiving religious instruction which they did not require. It was of the utmost importance to provide in every way for meeting the religious objections of the parents. Although the clause was by no means a perfect one, it contained the germ of a settlement, and it was a matter of satisfaction to him that its principle had been upheld by the Party opposite, believing, as he did, that sooner or later they would be compelled to make that principle a reality in the education of the country.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 9, to leave out the words 'public school.'"—(*Lord R. Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the clause."

Mr. DILLON said the Amendment raised an exceedingly important question—the question why it should be made a condition of giving these extended facilities that the children whose parents did not desire the facilities should have to be accommodated in other schools. It was made a complaint by Nonconformists against Clause 4 that these children were to be turned out of the schools. He did not see why this requirement should apply in the case of schools into which the minority had entered willingly. The parents, unasked, had sent their children to those schools with the present religious instruction in full swing, and therefore, it was perfectly clear that there was no conscientious difficulty. By the very structure of the clause it only applied to schools into which these children went, not from compulsion but from choice. He would ask hon. Gentlemen opposite to apply the principle of fair play and equal treatment in this matter. Let them take the ordinary provided schools. There they had a system which had been described by Dr. Clifford as civic Protestantism. Did they insist before they allowed this civic Protestantism to be taught in this country that there should be other school accommodation? If they did not, where was the equality and fair play? Where was the justice of compelling the minority in a provided school, where civic Protestantism was taught to remain there, through want of other accommodation, and of saying that denominational schools should not have the right to teach the religion of the Church of England or Catholic religion to four-fifths, until the other children found accommodation in other schools? That was not justice. In the vast majority of schools that came under Clause 4, where children of another religion went into the schools of their own free will, accepting the religious instruction given, there was no justice or reason in insisting as a condition of the continuation of the instruction that accommodation should be found in other schools for those children.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley) understood there might be some difficulty in dealing with the one-fifth children whose parents did not fall in with the religious education given in the denominational school. The alternative school was supposed to be an adequate provision for them, but he thought hon. Members were now pretty well aware that the law was not the only compulsory force which drove the children into a particular school. Distance, convenience, and safety were strong forces which sometimes compelled their entrance into schools their parents might not otherwise choose. If it was intended by this Amendment that Church of England teaching or Cowper-Temple teaching might be given inside a Roman Catholic school, in some other class-room, at the same time as the extended facilities teaching was given by the authorised person, he saw no reason for opposing the suggestion. He preferred undenominational education, but he was bound to say that as Clause 4 gave very large facilities for those who preferred denominational education he could not see why the Government should not accept the offer now made by the hon. Member for East Mayo. If the matter were pressed to a division he would go into the lobby with the hon. Member.

MR. J. CHAMBERLAIN said he gathered from the nature of the cheers on the other side of the House that they anticipated the welcome which he desired to give to the speech that had just been delivered. He only desired to point out to the hon. Member for the Morley Division that the suggestion had been made by other speakers besides the Member for East Mayo, and by no one more earnestly than by himself. The proposal was for universal facilities, and he joined in pressing on the Government the solution which he had already suggested. Whether or not there should be entire separation between religious and secular instruction, so far as payment either out of taxes or rates was concerned, there should be universal facilities for those who dissented from the teaching in any given school to secure for their children the kind of religious education which they desired. Where children, owing to reasons of distance, convenience, and the like, were sent for secular education to a school at which religious instruction was given of which their parents did not approve, it would be very unsafe to rely upon those parents to support the managers in securing the continuance of the religious instruction now given.

MR. BIRRELL said the construction which the right hon. Gentleman put upon the Amendment was that it would make facilities universal. That was a course which the Government could not adopt. They had made the course they had taken perfectly plain. It was part and parcel of the proposals of Clause 4 that the facilities should not be extended unless there was in the area where the four-fifths school was set up, undenominational accommodation in a public school for the children who did not desire the facilities. This was a very difficult Amendment to deal with. It started off by leaving out the words "public school." Those words had a technical meaning. Parliament, by Section 5 of the Act of 1870, had required the provision of a sufficient amount of public school accommodation without payment of a fee. It was essential that there should be in an area where a four-fifths school was set up sufficient public school accommodation—accommodation in a school where no fee was charged—for the children whose parents did not desire these facilities. That was one technical reason why it was impossible to accept the Amendment. The Bill proceeded on the assumption that the children were not required to go to the four-fifths school, and, if their parents refused, that there should be public school accommodation elsewhere. It was not proposed, as the hon. Member for East Mayo suggested, that the one-fifth should be turned out, but only that there should be another school to which they could go if they wanted to.

MR. DILLON: Supposing they all declared they did not want to go, must they still have the other accommodation provided for them?

MR. BIRRELL said no, and that was not the point. The objection to the noble Lord's proposal was that the one-fifth might be kept in the school against their will. If they were satisfied with the school they could vote for it, and that school would then get the facilities. But it was perfectly plain that if they were dissatisfied, and did not want their children educated in the school with these extended facilities, it was part and parcel, a *sine qua non* of the proposal of the Government that there should be a public school within the area in which they could receive their secular instruction. The Government view was that in the four-fifths school there might be denominational teaching every day in the week, and they did not wish to introduce into these four-fifths schools what was called the "Cowper-Temple religion." Neither did they wish to compel any child to receive this denominational teaching if its parents objected to it. Therefore, anyone who had made a study of Clause 4 would see that it was impossible for the Government to accept this Amendment.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the right hon. Gentleman had spoken of those who had made a special study of Clause 4. A great many of them had made a special study of the clause, but they had seldom had a more difficult subject for investigation, and since the Government had set to work to amend it, the clause had become perfectly unintelligible. The right hon. Gentleman, with a confidence which really surprised him, had spoken as if the Committee were seised of the method by which the Education Department and the local authority were to make themselves acquainted with the wishes of the one-fifth minority. They had not the least notion how the opinion of the one-fifth was to be ascertained. Would the Government destroy the denominational character of a school where there was one-fifth of a different denomination, but who did not want to go anywhere else? The Bill required other accommodation to be found for the minority. Why go to that expense if the existing accommodation were satisfactory? Why, if there were no other accommodation, destroy the denominational character of the school? The right hon. Gentleman was ingenious in his defence of Clause 4. Whenever it was criticised, he said with engaging frankness that it was a wretched, indefensible, and inconsistent clause, but that its critics ought to be thankful for having any clause at all. By rejecting an Amendment evidently calculated to carry out the wishes of the parents, the right hon. Gentleman had excited the disgust of the hon. Member for Morley, who spoke for the Nonconformists. [Cries of "No."] The hon. Member used to speak for the Nonconformists, and his fate was a sad example of the mutability of human fortunes. The hon. Member had lapsed into a generous and tolerant attitude towards those who did not agree with him in their religious and educational views. What was the result? Faithful service extending over many years, laborious efforts made all through the protracted debates of 1902 against the iniquitous provisions of a flagitious measure—all these were vain, one lapse into generosity had wiped out the services of years. The hon. Member would be driven in the long run to take his place among the small but faithful band of Liberal Churchmen, or even to cross the floor of the House and utter his criticisms of the Government in a less chilling atmosphere and amid less hostile surroundings. But though the right hon. Gentleman was obdurate to persuasion, the case submitted was difficult to resist. There was the case of the school mentioned by the right hon. Member for West Birmingham—a school built, recently, entirely out of Church funds, in the neighbourhood of board schools and yet containing a considerable number of Nonconformist children. The Government asserted that the parents of these children would, if they preferred a denominational to a Board School for their children, vote for the continuance of the denominational system. Surely, that was the last course which knowledge of human nature suggested as probable. By the provisions of the Bill the Government, while surely doing all they could for the one-third of Nonconformist children who voluntarily went to that school, might have some consideration for the two-thirds whose money had been spent in providing the school, seeing that it remained in the possession of the denomination as a denominational school, with the power of having special facilities for the two-thirds of the school children adhering to the denomination. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the Amendment was contrary to the plan of the Government. This procedure had been adopted by the Government throughout these debates. He believed that the clause was genuinely intended as some relief to the denominationalists, and as such he had intended to welcome it. But when he found that everything which prevented the clause from being a delusion was rejected, that everything which turned a sham into a reality was cast aside with scorn, he did not know whether he would not express his own feelings worse by supporting the clause than by voting against it. The right hon. Gentleman had shown no attempt to meet the Opposition, neither had he attempted to make the clause a reality. ["Oh, oh."] The right hon. Gentleman's excuse was that this was an undenominational Bill, and a denominational clause stuck into it was an anomaly, and, being an anomaly, they could not expect the work to be artistically perfect. Was, then, the clause worthy the support of the Committee in its present shape? ["No."] In view of the line which the right hon. Gentleman had taken, it was a very difficult question to answer; but it was clear that no denomination would really gain by the clause unless it was profoundly amended at some later stage of the Bill. Unfortunately, the Opposition were not in a position to compel the production of these Amendments on the Committee stage, as might have been the case had there been greater opportunities of discussion. There were cases in which no Government could stand the reiterated expression of unanswerable arguments. The arguments were unanswerable, but they could not be reiterated, and in Committee the Clause would pass with all its imperfections upon it. But if it remained permanently in the shape in which the Government desired to pass it at present, the idea that it was a valuable concession to certain great interests in the country was a complete delusion. Changes would have to be introduced in it at future stages, and they must be real and substantial if they were to carry out the policy which the Government themselves professed.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 367; Noes, 197. (Division list No. 160.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, J. A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, John E. (Somerset)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'wr Hamlets S. Geo.)
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire)
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. Jas. (Aberdeen)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.

Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard K.
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T.Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W.J.(S.Pancras,W.)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cross, Alexander
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, D. (Montgomery Co.)
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies,M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-inFurness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Maj. E.Martin(Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt.Hon. Herb.John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R.L.(Caith'ss-sh)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen,W.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon. S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardiner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras,E.
Leese, Sir J. A. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A. Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H.(Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William
M'Cullum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks,G. Croydon (Launcest'n)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts. Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N.(Doncast'r)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk, Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps,Col.Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps,J.Wynford(Pembroke)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk,E.
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford, E.
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards,T. F. (Wolverh'mp'n)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Chas. H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee)
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd

Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edw. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E.
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir J. L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampt'n)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, L. (Carmarthen)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. HnAJ (City Lond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood
Baring, Hn. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach, Hn. Michael HughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A (Worc.
Chance, Frederick William
Clancy, John Joseph
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Cox, Harold
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Crean, Eugene
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway)
Dillon, John
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred D.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Harrington, Timothy
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (BurySEdm'ds)
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hogan, Michael
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
King, Sir HenrySeymour (Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lee, ArthurH (Hants, Fareham)
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)

Long, Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin S)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis(EdinburghW
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, JohnThrogmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, Wm. (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James (Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild,Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, RtHn.Col.Edw.J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, FE.(Liverpool,Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thomas F.(Leitrim, S.)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot,RtHn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.)
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A.Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

And, it being after half-past Ten of the clock, the Chairman proceeded to put the Question on the Amendments proposed by the Government of which notice had been given, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 18th June.

Amendment made—

"In page 3, line 20, by inserting, after the word 'inquiry,' the words 'and cause a ballot to be taken.'"—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 3, line 22, at the end, to insert the words 'extended facilities shall not be afforded under this section except where the use of the schoolhouse is given, or the schoolhouse is transferred, to the local education authority free of any rent or other payment.'"—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Question put, "That the Amendment be made."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 360; Noes 200. (Division List No. 161.)]

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, RtHn.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, JosephA.(Finsbury,E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn JohnWilliams(Devonp'rt
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J.H.(Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, ArthurW.(Bedfordshire
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, SirJohnT.(Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt.Hn.JamesAberdeen)
Bryce, J.A.(Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt.Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight

Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, SirT.Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, CH(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cross, Alexander
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David(MontgomeryCo.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W.H.(S.Pancrs,N.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B.(Worc'r)
Harmsworth, RL.(Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.

Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor(Mon.,S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N)
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G.(Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, HughCecil(St.Pancras,E.)
Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W.H.(Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)

M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas.N.(Doncaster
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk,Eye)
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philpps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Price, RobertJohn(Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)

Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowdon, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (S'mers'tE,
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Hudd'rsfi'ld
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt Hn A. J. (City Lond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach, Hon. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Worc
Clancy, John Joseph
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galway
Dillon, John
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, Robert (Lanark Govan)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Glover, Thomas
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd)
Harrington, Timothy
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hogan, Michael
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W.

M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O Malley, William
O Mara, James
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool, Walton)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Smyth, Thos. F. (Leitrim, S.)
Starkey, John R.
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Rt. HnJ.G.(Oxf'dUniv
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancash.)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES:—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Amendment made—

"In page 3, line 25, by inserting, after the word 'inquiry,' the words 'and causing a ballot to be taken.'"—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 2, at the end, to add the words 'where the local education authority refuse to agree to an arrangement offered to them by the owners of the schoolhouse of an existing voluntary school as respects the use of the schoolhouse, and the school is one in respect of which extended facilities could be granted under this section, and are desired, the owners of the schoolhouse may appeal to the Board of Education, and that Board may, if they think fit, after considering the circumstances of the case, and the wishes of the parents of children attending the school as to the continuance of the school with extended facilities, by order, make an arrangement under this Act with respect to the use of the schoolhouse on such terms and conditions as may be contained in the order, including, if thought fit, a condition requiring extended facilities to be afforded, but if under any special circumstances of the case the Board think it expedient, they may, instead of making such an arrangement, make an order allowing the school to continue as a State-aided school. Provided that—

"'(a) An order shall not be made under this provision unless the schoolhouse is, in the opinion of the Board of Education, structurally suitable; and (b) An arrangement made by order for the use of a schoolhouse under this provision shall not have effect for more than five years.

"'It shall be the duty of the local education authority to comply with any condition contained in any arrangement made by an order under this section.'"—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Question proposed, "That the Amendment be made."

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness), on a point of order, said that at the commencement of the debate on Clause 4 the Chairman ruled an Amendment, which stood in the name of the noble Lord the Member for Chichester, out of order because the Committee had already settled by Clause 1 that every public elementary school should become a provided school. He therefore submitted that according to that ruling this Amendment also was out of order.

*The CHAIRMAN said the ruling which he gave on the Amendment of the noble Lord the Member for Chichester was because the words he proposed would have left a very large class of schools in a condition which would have been a contravention of a decision to which the Committee had already come. In this case the matter was different. The ruling on which questions of this kind should be treated was that Amendments should not be allowed to introduce a system inconsistent with the principle already laid down. He must say in regard to this particular Amendment that he could not in any case rule it out of order, because he was not at all sure that the State-aided schools would be recognised as public elementary schools. That alone would prevent him from ruling it out of order; but even if that consideration were out of the way any conclusion to which they had come would not prevent an Amendment permitting standing out in exceptional cases. The effect of the Government Amendment was merely to add one other small exception of a very limited character to those already contained in Clause 38.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 318; Noes, 161. (Division List No. 162.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert H.
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, J. A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, John E. (Somerset)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams(Devonp't
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets S.Geo
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex,Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordsh.
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire,N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F. L. (Lancs. Leigh)
Brunner, Sir J. T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. Jas. (Aberdeen)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn.SydneyChas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard K.
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard:
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew,W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,EGrinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David(MontgomeryCo.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Panras, N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Maj. E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hn. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon, Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh

Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton-
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R. L. (Caithn's-ssh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, J. M (Aberdeen, W.)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon. S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David B. (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J M (Falkirk B'ghs.)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncaster
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil Williams
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W. H M (Suffolk, Eye)
Philipps, Col Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Chas. H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E (Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Charles Edw (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt, Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stewart, James (Sunderland)
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Tennant, Sir Edw. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir J. L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, W. D. (Southampton)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Catchart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarthen
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters

Wilson, Hon. Ch. W.(Hull,W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J.W(Worcestersh. N.)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir JT(Huddersf'd

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt. Hn.Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.HnA.J.(City Lond.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barnes, G. N.
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N)
Beach, Hn.MichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Brace, William
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.J.A.(Wor.
Cleland, J. W.
Coates, E Feetham(Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred D.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, Robt. (Lanark, Govan
Evans, Samuel T.
Faber George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Haddock, George R.
Hardy, L. (Kent, Ashford)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hervey, F.W.F.(BurySEdm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Jowett, F. W.
Kelley, George D.
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn.Col. W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir HenrySeymour(Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras,E
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin,S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh, W.)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, JohnThrogmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Perks, Robert William
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Radford, G. H.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'm't'n
Richardson, A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon.Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt.Hn. Col.Edw.J
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool,Walton)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Snowden, P.
Starkey, John R.
Summerbell, T.
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J G.(Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomson,W.Mitchell (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col.W. H.(Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Wardle, George J.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York,E.R.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hn. George
Younger, George
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Amendment proposed—

"After the words last added, to add the words '(5) The parents of at least twenty children attending a transferred voluntary school, if aggrieved by the mode in which extended facilities are afforded by a local education authority, may appeal to the Board of Education, and that Board, if satisfied, after considering the circumstances of the case, that there are reasonable grounds for the appeal, may make an order allowing the school to continue as a State-aided school, and providing so far as necessary for the cancelling of any arrangement made with respect to the transfer or use of the schoolhouse and for any other matter for which provision is required in connection with the order.' "—*(Mr. Birrell.)*

Question put, "That the Amendment be made."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 392; Noes, 156. (Division List No. 163.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Ambrose, Robert
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert (Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (Devonport
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hn. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gilhooly, James
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Glendinning, R. G.
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R. L. (Caithn'ss-sh
Harrington, Timothy
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.

Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb,Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy(Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal, E.)
M‘Arthur, William
M‘Callum, John M.
M‘Crae, George
M‘Hugh, Patrick A.
M‘Kean, John
M‘Kenna, Reginald
M‘Killop, W.
M‘Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M‘Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M‘Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants.)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks,G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,CharlesN(Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk,Eye
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampt'n
Phillips,J Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price,C.E.(Edinburgh, Central)
Price,Robert John(Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athlestan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant,Sir Edward(Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen,E.)
Thomas,Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry

Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, W.Dudley (South'mpt'n
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarthen
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon.C. H. W.(Hull,W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Hudd'rsfi'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,RtHn.A.J. (CityLond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring Hn. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry,N.)
Beach,Hn. Michael HughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Brace, William
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J.(Birm.
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.A.(Worc
Cleland, J. W.
Coates,E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Captain James (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Crooks, William
Dalrymple, Viscount
Davies, David(Montgomery Co.
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dixon-Hartland,SirFred Dixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan,C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan,Robert(Lanark,Govan
Evans, Samuel T.
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Haddock, George R.
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison Broadley, Col. H. B.
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jowett, F. W
Kelley, George D.
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hn. Col. W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour(Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras,E.
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.,Fareham
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col. Charles W.(Evesham
Long,Rt HnWalter(Dublin, S.)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver,Sir Lewis(Edinburgh,W
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Radford, G. H.
Rawlinson, J. Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn.Col.Edw.J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, F. E.(Liverpool,Walton)
Smith, Hon. W.F.D. (Strand)
Soares, Ernest J.
Starkey, John R.
Summerbell, T.
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G(Oxf'd.Univ.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker,Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Ward, J. (Stoke-upon Trent)
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Wardle, George J.
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Col R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley(York,E.R.)

Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Amendment made—

"By adding, after the words last added, the words '(6) Where an order is made under this section allowing a school to continue as a State-aided school, the Board of Education may, notwithstanding anything in this Act, pay to that school, although it is not a school provided by the local education authority, the Parliamentary grants which would be payable in respect of the school or the scholars in the school if it was a school so provided, so long as all other statutory conditions affecting the payment of grants, so far as applicable to the school, are complied with in the case of the school.' "—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Amendment proposed—

"After the words last added, to add the words '(7) No child shall be reckoned, for the purposes of this section, as a child attending a school unless the child has attended the school with due regularity for at least six months in accordance with the code of minutes of the Board of Education for the time being in force in respect to public elementary schools, and if any question arises whether a child is a child attending a school for the purposes of this section that question shall be decided by the Board of Education.' "—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Question put, "That the Amendment be made."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 444 ; Noes, 118. (Division List No. 164.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, John Emmott (Somers't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert (Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire)
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N. E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hon. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinstd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Cross, Alexander
Crossley, William J.

Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W.H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gilhooly, James
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R.L. (Caithn'ss-sh
Harrington, Timothy
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon. S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Issaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallett, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William

O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson,W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps,Col.Ivor (S'thampton
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E.(Edinb'gh,Central)
Price, Robert John(Norfolk,E.
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford, E)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richards,T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson,Rt.Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson,SirG. Scott (Bradf'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann,Chas.E. (Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T.(Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant,SirEdward (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas,SirA.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Ward,W.Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, J. Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarthen
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson,Hon.C.H.W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt. Hn.Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn.A.J.(CityLond
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn.Michael HughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain,Rt. Hn, J. (Birm.
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn. J.A. (Wor
Coates,E.Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dixon-Hartland,Sir FredDixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt.Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur

Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hardy, Laurence(KentAshford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt.Hn.Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir HenrySeymour(Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.,Fareham
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col.CharlesW.(Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn.Walter(Dublin,S)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, SirLewis(EdinburghW.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H .(Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, JohnThrogmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm.G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon.Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt.Hn.Col.Edw.J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, F.E.(Liverpool, Walton
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col.W.H.(Lancashire
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent,Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson,A. Stanley(York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B.Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put, "That the clause, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 415; Noes, 138. (Division List No. 165.)

AYES.

Abraham,William (Cork, N.E)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Ambrose, Robert
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert(Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, JohnWilliams(Devonp'rt
Benn, W (T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H.(Essex,Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D.(Derybshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, SirJohnT.(Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A.(Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt.Hn.SyndeyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Coats, SirT.Glen(Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cogan, Denis J.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,EGrinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Cross, Alexander
Crossley, William J.
Davies, David (MontgomeryCo
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.
Delany, William
Devlin, CharlesRamsay(Galwy
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.

Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorEMartin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt. Hn HerbertJohn
Glover, Thomas
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worcs'r
Harmsworth, R.L(Caithn'ssh
Harrington, Timothy
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon. S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir JosephF(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy (Essex,Harwich
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M (FalkirkB'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal, E.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N(Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow, W
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D.(Colchester)
Pearson, W. H. M.(Suffolk,Eye)
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price,C.E.(Edinburgh, Central)
Price, RobertJohn(Norfolk, E.
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W.E.B(Bradford, E.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,Thomas(W. Monm'th
Richards, T.F.(Wolverhampt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H.(Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson,SirGScott (Bradford
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, Augustine (Cork)

Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas.E.(Manchester
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A Lyulph (Chesh)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End.)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Tennant,Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, SirA.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J.W.H(Somerset,E.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L.(Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Ward, W. Dudley (S'thampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J.H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewellyn(Carm'rth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hn. C.H. W. (Hull,W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J.W(Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Allen, Charles P.(Stroud)
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt.Hn.Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J(CityLond.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barnard, E. B.
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt.Hn.J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, RtHn.J.A(Worc.
Channing, Francis Allston
Clough, W.
Coates, E.Feetham (Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cory, Clifford John
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dixon-Hartland,SirFredDixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Glendinning, R. G.
Haddock, George R.
Hardy, Laurence(Kent,Ashf'rd
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Kennaway, Rt.Hn.Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn. Col.W
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Lea, HughCecil(St.Pancras, E.
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.Fareham
Levy, Maurice
Lockwood,Rt. Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col.CharlesW(Evesham
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, SirLewis(EdinburghW.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mansfield, H. Rendall(Lincoln)
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,JohnThrogmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield)

Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Perks, Robert William
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Radford, G. H.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Saunderson, Rt. Hn. Col. Edw. J.
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Clause 5—

Amendment made—

"In page 4, line 3, by leaving out the words 'take over' and inserting the words 'make an arrangement for the transfer to them, or the use by them, of the schoolhouse of.'"—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 8, at the end, to add the words 'but nothing in this section shall be construed so as to apply the provisions of this Act allowing an appeal to the Board of Education in cases where a local education authority refuse to make an arrangement as respects the use of the schoolhouse of an existing voluntary school.'"—(*Mr. Birrell.*)

Question put, "That the Amendment be made."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 352; Noes, 182. (Division List, No. 166.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, John Williams (Devonp'rt
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cross, Alexander
Crossley, William J.
Davies, David (Montgomery Co.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)

Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Grove, Archibald
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r.)
Harmsworth, R L (Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R, S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swanse
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrelll, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L, G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sutherland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips

Verney, F. W.
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon. C.H.W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J.W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M‘Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J. T (Hudd'rsfi'd

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt Hon. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn, A. J. (City Lond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A (Worc.
Clancy, John Joseph
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Crean, Eugene
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galway
Dillon, John
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gilhooly, James
Ginnell, L.
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrington, Timothy
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hogan, Michael
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col W.
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M‘Calmont, Colonel James
M‘Hugh, Patrick A.
M‘Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W.
M‘Kean, John
M‘Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roche, Augustine (Cork)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Russell, T. W.

Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seddon, J.
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Starkey, John R.
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ
Thomson, W Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C.B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland - Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Whereupon the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again upon Monday next.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) [EXPENSES].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys to be provided by Parliament, of an additional Annual Grant, not exceeding one million pounds, to be distributed among Local Education Authorities in pursuance of any Act of the present session to make further provision with respect to Education in England and Wales, and of the remuneration and Expenses of the Commissioners appointed under such Act." —(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question put forthwith, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 18th June. The Committee proceeded to a Division.

The Chairman named Mr. Whiteley and Mr. Joseph Pease as Tellers for the Ayes; but, there being no Members willing to act as Tellers for the Noes, he declared the Ayes had it.

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next.

MUSICAL COPYRIGHT BILL.

Order for Committee read.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR said the hon. Member for Bolton and he had had a consultation, and the hon. Gentleman had an Amendment with which he, unfortunately, was unable to agree. But the hon. Gentleman and he dared say other hon. Gentlemen were prepared to allow the really formal Amendment which was under discussion last night to pass.

Objection being taken, Committee was deferred till To-morrow.

RIGHTS OF WAY BILL.

Order for Committee read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

EAST INDIA (OFFICERS) (EXCHANGE COMPENSATION).

Address for "Return containing copies of all the Resolutions issued by the Government of India with regard to the grant of Exchange Compensation allowance to European Officers of the Indian Service."—(*Sir Seymour King.*)

And it being after half-past Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday Evening, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at twenty-one minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 28th June, 1906.

Lord Graves (Claim to Vote). Several witnesses ordered to attend the Committee for Privileges on Monday next, and produce documents.

Earldom of Norfolk, Several witnesses ordered to attend the Committee for Privileges on Monday next, and produce documents.

Worcester Election, Message to the Commons for copies of minutes of the evidence taken at the trial of the Worcester election petition.

The Lord Petre took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with: Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power.

And also the Certificates that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1). Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2). Water Provisional Order.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]; The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee with Amendments.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill [H.L.]; Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; The order made on Friday last, appointing certain Lords the Select Committee to consider the Bills, discharged.

Lord Tredegar's Supplemental Estate Bill [H.L.]; Read 3^{a}, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill, Brixham Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill; Read 3^{a}, and passed.

Kettering Water Bill. Read 3^{a}, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Hampstead Garden Suburb Bill; Cork City Railways and Works Bill. Brought from the Commons, read 1^{a}; and referred to the Examiners.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill [H.L.]; Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.] Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Five Lords appointed a Select Committee on the Uxbridge Gas Bill and another Bill do form the Select Committee for the consideration of the Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill [H.L.], and the Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.]; read, and agreed to: All petitions referred to the Committee, with leave to the petitioners praying to be heard by counsel against the Bills to be heard as desired, as also counsel for the Bills.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. House in Committee (according to order); Bills reported without Amendment: Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3^{a} To-morrow.

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.], Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [H.L.], Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [H.L.], Water Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.], Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^{a} (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.

Petition in favour of maintenance of existing religious education in Church of England Schools; of parents and guardians of children attending school at Colne; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

WORCESTER ELECTION.

Minutes of evidence taken at the trial of the Worcester election petition communicated (pursuant to Message of this day).

BOARD OF EDUCATION (1906).

Code of Regulations for Public Elementary Schools, with schedules.

COLONIES: ANNUAL.

No. 486. St. Helena (Report for 1905):

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES—

No. 3653. Russia (Odessa);

No. 3654. France (Nice);

No. 3655. Turkey (Salonica);

No. 3656. Germany (Trade of Germany for 1905);

No. 3657. Venezuela (Carcas);

ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE.

Report of the Royal Commission.

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS, 1853–1891, (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Licence granted by His Majesty to Constance Farrilley, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution, Milton House, Chelsea.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 TO 1902 (PROCEEDINGS).

Report by the Board of Trade respecting the applications to and proceedings of the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 to 1902, during the past year.

PILOTAGE.

Abstract of returns relating to pilots and pilotage in the United Kingdom (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper No. 300 of session 1905), as furnished by the various pilotage authorities.

HARWICH HARBOUR.

Abstract of the Accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Harwich Harbour Conservancy Board from the time of their incorporation down to and inclusive of March 31st, 1906.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875.

Thirtieth Annual Report of His Majesty's Inspectors of Explosives, for 1905

TONNAGE.

Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into the operations of section 78 and 87 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, in regard to the measurement of the tonnage of steamships; with minutes of evidence, appendices, and index. I. Report. II. Minutes of evidence, appendices, and index.

NAVY.

(New Construction) — Memorandum explanatory of the programme of new construction for 1905–1906; with details not included in the Navy Estimates for 1906–1907.

(Wireless Telegraphy) — Agreement between the Admiralty and the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, dated July 24th, 1903.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

CLERGY DISCIPLINE ACT, 1892.

Additional Rules, dated the 25th day of June 1906, under the Act.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (No. 2) BILL.

Amendments reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3^a to-morrow.

INDIAN RAILWAYS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

EDUCATION OF DEFECTIVE CHILDREN (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Read 3^a (according to order), and passed.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS BILL.

Amendment reported (according to order), and Bill to be read 3^a to-morrow.

THE FLAG AT WESTMINSTER.

THE EARL OF MEATH rose to ask His Majesty's Government whether the National Flag on the Palace of Westminster was lowered to half-mast on the announcement of the death of the late Right Hon. Richard Seddon, P.C., Premier of New Zealand, or at the time of his funeral, or of the memorial service lately held in St. Paul's Cathedral, and if not, whether His Majesty's Government do not consider that the time has arrived in the history of the Empire when such a national tribute of respect and of sympathy should, on the death of a Premier of a British self - governing colony, be paid to his memory by the Parliament of the Mother Country.

The noble Earl said: My Lords, since I put my Question on the notice Paper of your Lordships' House I have been advised that the raising and lowering of the National Flag on the Houses of Parliament is within the prerogative of His Majesty the King, inasmuch as this building is a Royal palace. This information has come to me from a private source. In consequence of this fact I have given notice that I propose to add to the Question as it has already been printed the words—

> "And will advise His Majesty the King, in the exercise of his prerogative, to give the necessary instructions in regard thereto."

By the death of the Right Hon. Richard Seddon, P.C., Premier of New Zealand, the British Empire has sustained a very serious, and in some particulars an irreparable, loss. This successful statesman and devoted son of the Empire was a very remarkable man. The son of a Lancashire schoolmaster and schoolmistress, he laid no claim to classical culture; in fact, it is known that as a boy he resisted the efforts of his father to teach him Latin. But, on the other hand, his sound common-sense, his great knowledge of the work - a - day world and of all things connected with it, his strength of character and belief in himself, his courage, endurance, independence, and indifference to criticism, his power of impressing his will on others, his energy, and his evident earnestness in all that he took up, made his personality irresistible.

For fourteen years, until his recent death, Mr. Seddon held the reins of power in New Zealand, and during four general elections he was re-elected with large and ever increasing majorities, proving that he had obtained the love and affection of the people of New Zealand. None of his predecessors had ever remained in office longer than four years. Such was his hold on the affections of the people of New Zealand that, if he had not died at the comparatively early age of sixty-one, in all probability he would have remained at the head of affairs in that country so long as his working powers lasted. He told interviewers that he was neither a Radical, a Liberal, a Conservative, nor a Socialist. He said—

> "I desire to improve the condition of the people socially, morally, and politically, to inspire them with hope and to give them every opportunity of securing comfort in old age without sacrificing their independence."

Whatever we may think of the political and social measures for which he was responsible, there can be no doubt whatever that the vast majority of the people of New Zealand warmly supported them; and not only that, his popularity increased year by year so that he reversed the usual experience of Governments, who find that their popularity is in inverse ratio to the length of their tenure of office.

In New Zealand he will probably be remembered as the author of two important measures—the Female Suffrage Act and the Old Age Pension Law. But for us at home he will ever remain the great Imperialist statesman who, when the military resources of this country were at their very lowest ebb, sent to our assistance in South Africa a gallant band of trained marksmen and skilled horsemen who rendered yeoman service in defence of the Empire. Since the war in South Africa the relation towards the mother country of the Colonies has been altered in a great degree. By associating themselves actively with the mother country and with each other in mutual defence they have identified themselves with imperial interests and acquired a distinct right to be consulted in all matters of an imperial character. To my mind, my Lords, the British Empire owes a deep debt of gratitude to the late President Kruger for having been the means of uniting and solidifying the British Empire. New Zealand took a full share in this memorable struggle, sparing neither blood nor treasure.

The spirit which animated those men who fought for us was their own, but it was Richard Seddon who gave them the opportunity of showing what they were made of. He it was who set an example of patriotism to New Zealand by sending his own son to the war before asking others to follow his example. Does not the Empire, and especially the mother country, owe some gratitude to this sturdy imperialist of the Antipodes? Surely we do, and New Zealand may rest assured that his action in the hour of the Empire's need, and the gallant deeds of her sons, will never be forgotten as long as the sun in the course of its revolution sets on the folds of the Union Jack in New Zealand and rises in Great Britain to salute the well-known emblem of British sovereignty.

I do not know what Answer may be given to my Question with regard to the lowering of the National Flag to half-mast on the occasion of Mr. Seddon's decease. I fear it may possibly prove to be in the negative, but, if so, I am confident that such regrettable inaction will not have been due to any want of respect or sympathy but from lack of precedent and initiative in the perception by His Majesty's Government of the entirely altered position occupied by New Zealand and the other self-governing Colonies since the date of the Boer War.

*THE LORD STEWARD OF THE HOUSEHOLD (The Earl of LIVERPOOL): My Lords, the Answer to the first paragraph of the noble Earl's Question is in the negative. The flag on the Victoria Tower of the Palace of Westminster is only lowered to half-mast on the death of the Sovereign or of a member of the Royal Family, and the First Commissioner of Works does not see any reason for departing from the decision of the late Government in this matter. As to the supplementary Question, His Majesty's Government do not see their way to take the course suggested; but in saying that, I wish to associate myself entirely with the noble Earl's eulogium of the late Mr. Seddon, whom everyone must look upon as a great statesman, and whose loss to the Empire all must deplore. I have always kept in touch with New Zealand politics, through an old and valued friend, who was leader of the Opposition there during Mr. Seddon's earlier terms of office, and who has now passed away, and I know from him that all parties in New Zealand held Mr. Seddon in the highest respect. Perhaps I ought to point out that though the Union Jack is a national flag, it is no more *the* national flag of this country than the American Jack or the Jack of Russia are national flags. A Royal palace moreover, is not in the same category as other buildings from which flags are flown.

LORD STANMORE: My Lords, may I be allowed to point out to the noble Earl who has brought this matter to the attention of your Lordships this afternoon, that if his suggestion had been adopted by His Majesty's Government there would be the greatest possible difficulty in discriminating between one Colonial Premier and another. You must either show this mark of respect in the case of the death of every Premier of an important Colony, which would reduce it to a mere matter of form, or you must discriminate between their respective merits, which it is not in the province of this House or of His Majesty's Government to do.

ARMY MEAT CONTRACTS.

THE EARL OF MAYO: My Lords, I rise to ask His Majesty's Government why the contracts for beef for the Army have been changed so as to substitute home-killed beef for home-bred beef. The Question is a very short one, but it embraces many people and many interests. Some years ago imported dead meat was served out to our troops, but in consequence of the great outcry against it an arrangement was made that the troops should have on five days home-bred beef and on two days Australian or New Zealand mutton. That went on for some time, and gave every satisfaction. The arrangement remains in force, I believe, where the contract is accepted for live cattle, but in all dead meat contracts home-killed is allowed; that is to say, home-bred is entirely done away with. All cattle imported alive have, as we know, to be killed at the port of entry, and therefore all cattle imported into this country, whether from Canada, America, or the Argentine, comes under the category of home-killed.

This is a great blow to the farmer and to all agriculturists in England, Ireland and Scotland, and it is one they hardly merit. On Ireland, a purely agricultural country, the blow falls most heavily. To show your Lordships that this is not a small matter, I may mention that the annual consumption of meat by the Army and Navy represents 164,250 head of cattle, the money value being about £2,792,000. By one stroke of the pen, by the alteration of one word in a contract, this trade is almost swept away. The cattle and dead meat imported into this country govern the price of cattle in the United Kingdom. If there is an enormous import of dead meat and live cattle the price of stores naturally falls at once, and this is felt throughout England, Ireland and Scotland. I cannot see, therefore, what the advantage is in altering the contract in this way, because if the price of cattle is governed by the importation, surely it is just the same if you allow home-bred cattle to be killed for the purpose of the troops Surely among the millions that inhabit these Islands there are more than enough to consume the imported beef. I am sure the troops would be more than pleased if our farmers were allowed to supply them with the roast beef of Old England and of Ireland and Scotland.

I should like to read to your Lordships the curt and decisive letter which was received from the Army Council by the Secretary of the Irish Cattle Traders and Stockowners' Association. Here it is—

Sir,—With reference to your letter of the 12th inst., transmitting a copy of a resolution passed by your committee on the subject of War Department contracts for meat, I am commanded by the Army Council to inform you that troops in the United Kingdom get fresh beef five days a week, and the main reason for the alteration in the tender form was to widen the source of supply, and to obtain the best quality at the most reasonable price.

The words in the tender form are general, and include beef from imported cattle killed at port of entry. There is no intention of again substituting "home-bred" for "home-killed" in the tender forms.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed), R. M. BRUDE.

The Secretary Irish Cattle Traders and Stockowners' Association.

I suppose that may be considered as the law of the Medes and Persians, and that in future English, Irish and Scottish farmers are to be precluded from providing the troops with home-bred beef. Farmers all pay taxes, and I think some consideration might be shown to them.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of PORTSMOUTH): My Lords, this question has been raised on several occasions recently in another place, and I would refer the noble Earl to the replies given on those occasions by the Secretary of State. The only object in altering the Army contract forms so as to substitute home-killed for home-bred beef was to widen the source of supply of meat for the Army with a view to obtaining the best meat at the lowest price. As the Secretary of State has said, the policy of the Government in this matter is one of free trade—*i.e.*, to buy meat where we can get it best and cheapest; and I am afraid that I can hold out no hope of a return to the old arrangements. These arrangements, of course, did give a decided preference to the home agriculturist, but it must be remembered that this preference was given at the expense of the public Exchequer. We expect by the new arrangements to effect a considerable saving in the annual Estimates under the Supply Vote. The present demand in this country for foreign home-killed beef points to its satisfactory quality. By opening the Army contracts to it we are both saving public money and keeping down *pro tanto* the price of meat for the consuming public.

THE EARL OF MAYO: When the time comes I hope the noble Earl will be able to point out to me the saving to the consuming public as a result of this arrangement.

WORCESTER ELECTION.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (Lord LOREBURN): My Lords, your Lordships will have observed that a message has come from the Commons that they have agreed to an Address to be presented to His Majesty, in which they desire the concurrence of this House, viz.:—

"Worcester Election,—

"*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

"We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the

"Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave humbly to represent to Your Majesty that Sir John Compton Lawrence, knight, one of the Justices of the High Court of Justice, and Sir Joseph Walton, knight, one of the Justices of the High Court of Justice, being two of the Judges appointed for the trial of Election Petitions, pursuant to The Parliamentary Elections Acts, 1868, and The Parliamentary Elections and Corrupt Practices Act, 1879, have reported to the House of Commons that there was reason to believe extensive corrupt practices had taken place at the last Election for the City of Worcester.

"We therefore humbly pray Your Majesty that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to cause inquiry to be made, pursuant to the powers of the Act of Parliament passed in the sixteenth year of the reign of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, intituled 'An Act to provide for more effectual inquiry into the existence of Corrupt Practices at Elections for Members to serve in Parliament,' by the appointing of Edward Tindal Atkinson, esquire, one of Your Majesty's Counsel, Attorney-General for Your Majesty's Palatine of Durham, and Recorder of Leeds; Horace Edmund Avory, esquire, also one of Your Majesty's Counsel and Recorder of Kingston-upon-Thames; and Charles Willie Matthews, esquire, Barrister-at-law and Recorder of Salisbury, as Commissioners for the purpose of making inquiry into the existence of such corrupt practices."

I have therefore to move that this House agree with the Commons in the proposed Address.

Moved, "To agree with the Commons in the Address to His Majesty, and to fill up the blank with 'Lords Spiritual and Temporal and'"—(*The Lord Chancellor.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Lord Steward and the Lord Chamberlain to present the Address on the part of this House: The Lord Chamberlain to learn His Majesty's pleasure concerning the presentation of the said Address.

House adjourned at Five o'clock till To-morrow half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 28th June, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH.)

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz.: Kent Electric Power Bill [Lords].

Ordered, that the Bill be read a second time.

DUBLIN POLICE BILL (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 20th day of June, That, in the case of the following Bill, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz.:—Dublin Police Bill.

Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill. Lords Amendment considered, and agreed to.

Barry Railway Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, without Amendment.

Great Northern Railway Bill. To be read the third time upon Monday next.

Rutherglen Burgh Order Confirmation Bill. "To confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to Rutherglen Burgh," presented by Mr. Sinclair; read the first time; and ordered (under section 9 of the Act) to be read a second time upon Monday, July 9th, and to be printed. [Bill 280.]

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill. Reported with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]. Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill as amended to be considered To-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]. Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) Bill.

Reported without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]. Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time Tomorrow.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 3) Bill. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]. Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time Tomorrow.

Manchester Churches Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table.

London County Council (Electric Supply) Bill. Reported from the Select Committee [Preamble not proved]. Report to lie upon the Table.

London County Council (Electric Supply) Bill. Special Report from the Select Committee brought up, and read. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 219.]

Minutes of Proceedings to be printed. [No. 219.]

London and North Western Railway Bill [Lords]. Reported, with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 7).

Mr. OSMOND WILLIAMS reported from the Committee on Group 7 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday next, at a quarter before Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP I).

Mr. TOULMIN reported from the Committee on Group I of Private Bills; That, at the meeting of the Committee this day, a letter was received from Mr. Henry, one of the Members of the said Committee, stating that he was unable, on account of domestic affliction, to attend the Committee this day.

Report to lie upon the Table.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to, Dowlais Gas Bill, Merthyr Tydfil Gas Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to, Haslingden Corporation Bill [Lords], without Amendment.

PETITIONS.

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) (CONSOLIDATION) BILL.

Petition from Dundee, against; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; from Basford; Bristol; Dingley; Dovercourt; Dunwich; Holdenby (two); Lampeter; Pilton; Plaistow; Sale; Spratton; and, Wadenhoe; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; from Fulham; Leek; London; and Sunderland; to lie upon the Table.

FATAL ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS INQUIRY (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions from Dundee, against; to lie upon the Table.

LAND VALUES TAXATION, ETC. (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions from Condorrat; Dundee; and Glasgow; to lie upon the Table.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petitions for alteration; from Buckingham; Federation of Pharmaceutical Associations; Hallam; Leominster; Morley (two); Newport Pagnell; North Hertfordshire; North West Kent; Prestwich; Sheffield; Sunderland; Watford (two); and, West Toxteth; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3654 to 3657 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EXPLOSIVES.

Copy presented, of Thirtieth Annual Report of His Majesty's Inspectors of Explosives, being for the year 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Copy presented, of Licence granted to Constance Farrilley, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution, Milton House, Chelsea, S.W. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TONNAGE.

Copy presented, of Report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to inquire into the operation of Sections 78 and 87 of The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, in regard to the measurement of the tonnage of Steamships, with Minutes of Evidence, Appendices, and Index. I. Report; II. Minutes of Evidence, Appendices, and Index [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 TO 1902 (PROCEEDINGS).

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the Applications to and Proceedings of the Board of Trade under the Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 to 1902, during the past year [by Act]; to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 220.]

PILOTAGE.

Copy presented, of Abstract of Returns relating to Pilots and Pilotage in the United Kingdom (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 300, of Session 1905) as furnished by the various Pilotage Authorities [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 221.]

HARWICH HARBOUR.

Copy presented, of Abstract of the Accounts of the Receipts and Expenditure of the Harwich Harbour Conservancy Board from the time of their incorporation down to and inclusive of March 31st, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 222.]

MAGISTRATES (SCOTLAND).

Return Presented, relative thereto [ordered March 15th; *Mr. Eugene Wason*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 223.]

COLONIAL REPORTS (ANNUAL).

Copy presented, of Colonial Report No. 486 (St. Helena, Report for 1905) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NAVY (WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY).

Copy presented, of the Agreement between the Admiralty and the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company, dated July 24th, 1903 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NAVY (NEW CONSTRUCTION).

Copy presented, of Memorandum explanatory of the programme of New Construction for 1905–6, with details not included in the Navy Estimates for 1906–7 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION (CODE 1906).

Copy presented, of Code of Regulations for Public Elementary Schools, with Schedules, by the Board of Education [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

LUNACY.

Copy of Sixtieth Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy to the Lord Chancellor [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 224.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Technical Education in India.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will state what is the total amount spent out of State funds on technical education in India.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The total amount spent out of public funds in India on technical education during 1904-5 was Rs. 6,78,000 (£45,200).

Date of Indian Budget Debate.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether a decision has been arrived at as to the date for the discussion of the Indian Budget.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) We hope to take the Indian Budget on July 20th.

Irish Postal Service Promotions.

Mr. FLYNN (Cork, N.): To ask the Postmaster-General on what principle of merit or seniority is promotion regulated in the postal service in Ireland; whether he can say why a Mr. Gibson was promoted to the surveyors' office in Dublin over the heads of other members of the Portadown staff of longer service and higher qualifications, and why were not applications for the position invited from other members of the staff; and whether he can also say why a substitute, named Magennis, was transferred from Portadown to Letterkenny, whilst a substitute of inferior qualification who was drawing sustenance money has been retained.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The case of Mr. Gibson, to which the hon. Member refers, is not one of promotion but of temporary employment in the Surveying Department. For such employment it is not the practice to invite applications, as it is necessary to select officers who are known to possess special qualifications for that class of work. Mr. Gibson was considered to possess the best qualifications for this work. The substitute, named Magennis, has been selected for temporary duty in the Letterkenny post office because, in the event of the post which he is filling temporarily becoming vacant, he has the first claim to consideration for the appointment.

Telegraphic Facilities at Southampton.

Lieutenant - Colonel PHILIPPS (Southampton): To ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the inconvenience and delay to firms at the Southampton Docks owing to the present position of the telegraph office there; and whether he will consider if arrangements cannot be made for an additional telegraph office near the main dock gates, where it can be more easily, quickly, and safely reached by those sending telegrams, such an office to be connected, if possible, by a pneumatic tube with the present main office at the platform.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) Representations on the subject have reached me. I understand that a telegraph office is desired at the post office in Canute Road, but as that office is not a quarter of a mile from the head telegraph office another telegraph office seems scarcely justified. I understand, moreover, that a new entrance to the docks is being provided close to the head telegraph office, so that the latter should meet all requirements.

Female Medical Officers for Glasgow Postal Staff.

Mr. WATT (Glasgow College): To ask the Postmaster-General if he has taken into consideration the advisability of appointing one or more female doctors to the position of medical officers to the post office at Glasgow; and if he will now say into how many districts he proposes to divide the appointment.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I do not think it would be advisable to appoint female medical officers to any of the six districts into which Glasgow will be divided.

Claims of Irish Evicted Tenants.

Mr. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that particulars of the claims of the following evicted tenants in Thomastown Union, namely, Michael Walsh, Oldtown, Thomastown, on Colonel Hanford's Flood Hall estate; James Walsh, Plebourstown, Thomastown, and Michael Farrell, Plebourstown, on Colonel Butler's Kearney's estate; and Thomas Kelly, Thomastown, on Rev. R. P. Clifford's estate, were lodged with the Estates Commissioners a long time ago; and will he say whether these claims have been examined and with what result; and what, if any, action has been taken in regard to them by the Estates Commissioners; and if no action has yet been taken, whether he will state when an inspector will be sent down, and when a settlement may be expected.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received applications for reinstatement from the persons indicated, and will have these applications inquired into by their inspector, who has been directed to investigate the claims of evicted tenants in county Kilkenny.

Irish School Managers and Dr. Starkie.

MR. P. A. McHUGH (Sligo, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, at a meeting of the Catholic Clerical School Managers' Association for Ireland, held in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin, on the 5th June, 1906, a resolution was unanimously adopted expressing dissatisfaction at the continuance in office of the present Resident Commissioner of National Education, Dr. Starkie; and whether he has investigated the reasons assigned for their dissatisfaction, and what steps does he propose to take to secure the re-establishment of cordial relations between the managers and those charged with the control of primary education in Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I was not aware that the resolution referred to had been passed. The entire subject of primary education in Ireland deserves to to be carefully considered; but I may say that the Irish Government entertain the very highest opinion of Dr. Starkie's zeal and ability.

Summonses for Disturbance at Eviction of Mr. Ward at Loughrea.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that some thirty or forty persons were served with summonses by the police for participation in the disturbances in connection with the eviction of Mr. Ward, at Loughrea; that a meeting of those summonsed was held, at which it was decided that, if fines were imposed by a packed jury, they would go to gaol in a body rather than pay the fines; whether in view of this threat the summonses were withdrawn; and will he say by whose authority the summonses were issued in the first instance, and by whose authority they were withdrawn.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) No persons were summoned for participation in any disturbance in connection with the eviction of Mr. Ward, at Loughrea, but summonses were issued against some persons for being drunk and disorderly. I am not aware that any such meeting as is mentioned in the Question was held. The summonses were not withdrawn in view of the alleged threat, or of any threat. They were issued in the ordinary way, under the authority of the Inspector-General, and were withdrawn by his order and with the approval of the Irish Government.

Waterford Toll Bridge.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, on the completion of the new central railway station by the Fishguard and Rossclare Company and the Great Southern and Western Company, north of the River Suir, at Waterford, the former company will be empowered to cease to use the station at the south side of the river for passenger and other traffic, and thereby to compel passengers and goods, which have hitherto entered Waterford by the south station, to pay tolls on the toll bridge for crossing to and from the city to the station on the north side; and whether a rebate of such tolls can be claimed by such passengers and traffic from the Fishguard Company.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) My right hon. friend has asked me to reply to this Question. I have communicated with both the railway companies concerned in the matter, and I am informed that it is not proposed to take any steps to close the existing station on the south side of the River Suir pending the decision of the question of the provision of a free bridge in lieu of the existing toll bridge. As the hon. Member is no doubt aware, the Fishguard and Rosslare Company are under a statutory obligation to contribute towards the cost of the suggested new bridge.

Sale of Sir H. Burke's Estate at the Marble Hill.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the attention of the Estates Commissioners has been directed to the negotiations going on for the sale of the widely-spread estate of Sir Henry Burke, Marble Hill, Woodford, to the tenants; are the Commissioners aware that the townlands comprising the really rich sections of the estate are being sold first, for the purpose of raising the market value of the poor mountainous parts of the property; and, in view of the possibility of the poor people living in these arid mountain districts being forced or induced to sign agreements neither fair to themselves or the ratepayers, will he call the attention of the Estates Commissioners to the proposed sale of this estate, with a view, amongst other matters, of having Mr L. F. Egan and other evicted tenants reinstated in their evicted homes.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have no reason to believe that sales of portions of this estate are being arranged with the object mentioned in the Question. The Commission have referred the applications of the evicted tenants to one of their inspectors for inquiry in connection with the sale of the property.

Royal Irish Constabulary Inspectors—Mr. H. Moriarty.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state on whose recommendation Mr. H. Moriarty has been appointed sub-inspector of police in Ballymahon; where this officer served before; how many police stations he had then under his charge; whether he is aware that whilst in other police districts officers have to inspect twenty stations this officer will only have to inspect five; and on what ground he has been transferred from a harder to an easier district.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that in county Longford there is a county inspector and three district inspectors of constabulary to inspect sixteen police stations, while in many places in Ireland one district inspector has charge of a much larger number of stations than these four officers together; and whether, seeing that the Government policy of reducing the number of these officials is in many cases blocked by the efforts of the constabulary authorities to favour the influential owners of the houses of which these inspectors are tenants, he proposes to take any and, if any, what action in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Inspector-General informs me that he, of his own motion, transfered this officer from Belmullet to Ballymahon. At Belmullet the district inspector had charge of eight stations, and at Ballymahon he has charge of six. There is no district in Ireland in which a district inspector would have to inspect as many as twenty stations. Mr. Moriarty was transferred from county Mayo because he was marrying a lady connected with that county, and under the regulations he could no longer serve there. There is, in Longford, as in every other county of Ireland, a county inspector of constabulary; and there are in the county three police districts, each in charge of a district inspector. In two of these districts there are six, and in the third five, police stations. This is about the usual number as compared with other counties. The Inspector-General informs me that he is not aware of any case to which the circumstances mentioned in the concluding part of the second Question applies.

Irish National Schools—Rebuilding Plans

MR. JOHN ROCHE (Galway, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that injury is caused to education in Ireland by the delay in issuing the new arrangements for the building of national schools in Ireland; and whether steps will be taken to have these new regulations issued as soon as possible.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am well aware that there is great need for the erection of new national school buildings and the improvement of existing school buildings in Ireland; and the Irish Government is doing its best to accelerate the settlement of a scheme for that purpose.

Report of Consultative Committee of Education.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is now in a position to lay upon the Table the Report of the Consultative Committee of Education.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I fear that I cannot add anything to the reply which I gave to the right hon. Gentleman's similar Question on the 20th instant.†

Teaching of Irish in Schools.

MR. WALTER LONG: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he would lay upon the Table copies of the resolution and correspondence which have passed between the Government and the Board of Intermediate Education with reference to the teaching of Irish in the schools.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The right hon. Gentleman's long official experience will have made him aware that it would not be in accordance with practice to lay upon the Table copies of the correspondence which has passed between the Government and any Department or Board, and quite irregular to do so while the correspondence is still incomplete.

Improvements of Kinara Harbour.

MR. DUFFY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how much money was allowed and placed at the disposal of the Board Works to carry out the improvements to Kinvara Harbour; when the works were brought to an abrupt conclusion, on the 30th April, 1906, how much of the the money remained unexpended; and will the balance, if any, be handed over to the county council for the extension of the pier.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The certified works at Kinvara, under the Marine Works Act, were estimated to cost £1,900, of which the sum of £1,100 was allocated from the Marine Works Fund and £800 was to be contributed by the county council. These works have been completed; and as they were executed by the Board of Works themselves, instead of by a contractor, and as it was found that portions of the old work were still quite sound, the Board were enabled to complete the work at a cost of £1,369. The county council have not yet paid their contribution. The balance cannot be handed over to the council for the proposed extension to the pier. It is in regard to that proposed extension that the legal difficulty mentioned in my reply to the hon. Member's Question of Tuesday last has arisen.†

Sale of the St. George's Estate, Tyrone—Case of Mary Greally.

MR. DUFFY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received agreement forms from the tenants on the St. George's Estate, Tyrone, Clarenbridge, Galway; and, before sanctioning the same, will inquiries be made into the case of widow Mary Greally, of Kilcolgan, who was evicted out of her holding some years ago, with a view of having her reinstated.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that no agreements for purchase have yet been lodged with them in this case. They will, however, have inquiries made into the case of Mrs. Greally.

Spread of Consumption in Ireland.

MR. DUFFY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the death rate from consumption has risen from 19 to 25 per 10,000 of the population in Ireland within the course of the past few years, while in England it has fallen from 24 to 12 per 10,000 of the population; and whether in view of the fact that 14,000 of our people are doomed to die of this disease in 1907, he will advise the Government to take such steps as may be deemed necessary to stop the ravages of this insidious but preventable disease.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I beg to refer to my reply to a similar Question put by the hon. Member for West Cavan on Tuesday last,‡ which has probably escaped the hon. Member's notice. The Question is engaging the close attention of the Irish Government, who will do all they can to check the evil.

Congestion in County Galway.

MR. DUFFY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he received a copy of a resolution, passed by the Galway County Council at their meeting on the 18th instant, calling the attention of the Government to the fact that very little has been done, in the county of Galway and other areas affected, to relieve the state of congestion which exists, and impressing on them the necessity of forming a Royal Commission at once to inquire into the matter; and what steps the Government propose to take in the matter.

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† See Col. 150.

† See Col. 608.

‡ See Col. 794.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I have received the resolution referred to. The subject is, I understand, to be discussed this afternoon, and anything I have to say can be better said then.

Application for Untenanted Land at Ardrahan, County Galway.

MR. DUFFY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received a memorial from a body of very small tenants in the parish of Ardrahan, county Galway, as well as from a body of suitable applicants who are anxious to secure holdings, requesting them to consider their claims to the untenanted lands recently purchased by the Estates Commissioners from Mr. Burton Persse in the parish of Ardrahan; and whether any decision has been arrived at in reference to the allocation of these lands.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they are unable to identify, from the information furnished in the Question, the particular memorial referred to. Proceedings for the sale of a portion of the Burton Persse Estate have been instituted before the Commissioners, and all applications for land received from the tenants and others have been referred to their inspector for inquiry in connection with his inspection. These applications will be considered by the Commissioners in due course.

Monthly Payment of Salaries of Irish School Teachers.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland have refused to pay the salaries of teachers monthly instead of quarterly, as they do at present, solely because it would cost too much to do so; if he is aware that the Commissioners pay the salaries of the resident Commissioner, the inspectors, and the staff of the office monthly; if so, will he explain why the same plan cannot be adopted in the case of the teachers; will he say if any members of the Commisioners' staff is more than sixty-five years of age, and, if so, why is he retained; if he will recommend the Commissioners to ask any of the other public boards who pay monthly salaries to assist and advise how to do so without incurring much additional expense; and if there is any other instance in the public service where persons in receipt of one pound a week are paid only four times yearly.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed that the fact is as stated in the first paragraph. The salaries of the central and inspection staffs are paid monthly. These combined staffs number less than 200 individuals, and the payment of their salaries is not contingent on average attendance and other conditions which have to be considered in connection with payments of teachers' salaries. The number of national teachers, pupil teachers, and monitors is about 17,000, and the same plan of payment could not be adopted in their case. No member of the permanent staff is over sixty-five years of age. The question of paying the teachers' salaries is one entirely for the Commissioners themselves, and they hold that it would be quite impossible to make monthly payments without a very large increase of staff.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of James Smythe.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland to state whether the Estates Commissioners have received any application from James Smythe, of Larkfield, county Longford, for restoration to his mother's evicted farm on the Dopping Estate; and whether, in view of the fact that this estate is now being sold to the tenants, care will be taken that no new tenancy of this holding will be sanctioned by the Commissioners as forming part of the estates for sale, unless the same is made to James Smythe, the lawful heir of the former tenant.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received an application for reinstatement from James Smythe, and will have the same duly inquired into before they sanction the sale of the estate referred to. Proceedings for the sale of this estate have not yet, however, been commenced before the Commissioners.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of Peter Victory.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any application has been received by the Estates Commissioners from Peter Victory for restoration to him of the farm on the Dopping Estate to which he is entitled; and whether, as arrangements are now about being made for the sale of this estate to the tenants, care will be taken by the Estates Commissioners that the evicted tenants on the property, including Peter Victory, are readmitted to their holdings.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners have received Peter Victory's application for reinstatement, not on the Dopping Estate, but on the estate of Captain White. The applicant states that his former holding is occupied by Patrick McGirney, and the Commissioners' records show that McGirney has already purchased under the Land Act what is presumably the holding in question. Victory's application will, however, be inquired into by the local inspectors in due course.

Fair Rent Appeals at Killarney.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he is aware that in the preliminary list for the sitting of the Chief Land Commissioners at Killarney, on the 3rd July next there were sixteen cases listed on the estate of the Earl of Kenmare, whereas, on the final list, now published, only two of these cases appear; and whether he can state the cause of the omission of the other cases, some of which have been before the Commissioners since 1898.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the Land Commission that the preliminary list of fair rent appeals to be heard at Killarney on 3rd July was sent to each appellant with a notice stating that the final list would comprise as many of the cases as the Judicial Commissioners considered it possible to hear in the time at their disposal, and requesting that appellants would notify the Commissioners of any appeals which they did not intend to prosecute, or in which settlements had been arrived at or sales were pending, or which for any other reason would not go to a hearing. This notice explains the exclusion of any cases which do not appear in the final list.

Supply of Answers to Irish Questions.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will consider the advisability of supplying Members with copies of the Questions that are answered orally, as is the custom in other Government Departments.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The hon. Member does not seem to be aware that it is my practice to send to the lobby at the back of Mr. Speaker's Chair copies of my oral Answers for the use of hon. Members, and marked "For Irish Members." I am not aware what the practice of other Ministers may be, but I do not think there is any invariable custom in the matter.

Irish Land Purchase—Improper Sales.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that some landlords are, for the purpose of obtaining public money under the Land Act of 1903, by means of agreements called judicial, but never approved by any court, eluding inspection and selling within the zones of that Act holdings to which the Land Acts, used legitimately, do not apply; and, seeing that embarrassed tenants will not voluntarily expose this practice, will the Estates Commissioners ascertain the date of such an agreement in every case, disallow all signed since 1902, and have the holdings inspected as non-judicial.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that, in any case in which it appears that a judicial rent for a first statutory term has been fixed by agreement made since 1st January, 1903, it is their practice, before sanctioning an advance, to make full inquiries into all the circumstances of the case with the object of ascertaining whether an inspection is necessary or not.

Northumberland Artillery Militia Training Ground.

SIR ROBERT HOBART: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, as the Northumberland Artillery Militia are mainly recruited at Newcastle-on-Tyne, the headquarters could be moved to Newcastle-on-Tyne Royal Artillery Barracks from Berwick-on-Tweed, by which means the expense of conveying men backwards and forwards, both on joining and dismissal, between Newcastle and Berwick, en route for Portsmouth, where the regiment is trained, would be saved.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) To move the headquarters of the regiment to Newcastle would necessitate the building of quarters and accessories similar to those available at Berwick, and the acquisition of a site for this purpose. No funds are, however, available.

Barrack Accommodation at the British Legation at Pekin.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the inadequacy of the accommodation provided for the officers and men of the British Legation guard at Pekin; whether, in view of the fact that the Legation's civil quarters are excellent, and the German and Dutch military are properly accommodated, he will take steps to provide suitable quarters for the British guard; and whether he is aware that there is no hospital for the British military garrison.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The provision of suitable accommodation for the British Legation guard at Pekin and of a hospital is at the present moment being carefully considered, and it is hoped that a decision will be reached at an early date.

Additional Squadron of Lovat Scouts.

MR. JOHN DEWAR (Inverness): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he has received a petition from over 300 men in South Uist, asking that an additional squadron may be added to the Lovat Scouts, as a large number of men in that district are anxious to join the regiment; and whether having regard to the high character of this regiment and the excellent material to be obtained in recruits from that district, he is able to grant the request.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The petition has been received, and has been referred to the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Scottish Command, for report.

Disposal of Sites and Buildings connected with the Defence of London.

MR. GIBBS (Bristol, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for War when he will be in a position to state his proposals with regard to disposing of the sites and buildings connected with the defences of London.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) These buildings are at present full of ammunition and tools, for which no accommodation is immediately available elsewhere. Consequently, I cannot at present say when I can make the statement required by the hon. Member.

Suggested Government Grant to Rifle Clubs.

MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he proposes to stimulate the growth of rifle clubs throughout the country by making them a grant from the funds at his disposal.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) I have at present no funds at my disposal to further the growth of rifle clubs. It would be premature to discuss, at this moment, the possible provision of such funds in the future.

British Commercial Representation Abroad.

MR. LAIDLAW (Renfrewshire, E.) To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will inform the House as to the number of commercial agents, other than consular agents, in the service of the respective Governments of France, Belgium, Germany, the United States of America, and Japan, who are resident in this country; and as to the number of commercial agents, other than consular agents, in the service of the British

Government, who are resident in France, Belgium, Germany, the United States of America, Japan, and China.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) There is a commercial attaché on the staff of the French Embassy, and a technical attaché on that of the German Embassy. No appointments of commercial agents have been notified to the Foreign Office by either the United States, Belgium, or Japan. There are British commercial attachés for France and Belgium, Germany, China and Japan; and there is also a British commercial agent in the United States.

The Egyptian Shooting Affair.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in reference to the recent affray between British officers and Egyptians at Tantah, whether he has yet received any detailed information as to the circumstances which led to the affray; whether any of the natives were killed or injured, will the British officers who took part in the affray be tried; whether the pigeons shot on these occasions are tame or wild pigeons; whether pigeon shooting in the neighbourhood of villages is a legal occupation in Egypt; whether in this instance the permission of the head man of the village had been obtained by the officers before they commenced to shoot; what were the special grounds on which the Agent and Consul of Great Britain demanded that the accused Egyptians in this case should be sent for trial before the Special Tribunal; and whether there is any appeal from the Special Tribunal before which the Egyptians are to be tried.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) When a report appeared in the Press yesterday, I telegraphed to know what the sentences were and what were the facts established at the trial, saying that it was desirable we should know them before any death sentences were executed. The information I have received is as follows, the sentences were as stated in the Press. With regard to the trial, the prisoners were defended by three of the best known native advocates, who had a full hearing. The Court was unanimous as regards the prisoners found guilty, and the evidence clearly established premeditation and concerted action. Thirty-one of the prisoners were acquitted, and twenty-one were found guilty. The Court expressed its opinion that the British officers had behaved with extreme forbearance and self-restraint. The chief attack took place after they had given up their guns, and was persisted in with great brutality. I am also informed that, in the opinion of Judge Bond and Mr. Hayter, the acting judicial adviser, both members of the Court, the first six prisoners would undoubtedly have been found guilty of murder by a British jury. The Special Court was composed of the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who has had several years experience in the ministry of justice, and is Acting Minister of Justice in the absence of the latter; Mr. Bond, Vice-President of the Native Court of Appeal, whose position is practically that of Lord Chief Justice; Fathig Bey, President of the Cairo Native Court; Mr. Hayter, Acting Judicial Adviser, formerly a judge in the Soudan; and Colonel Ludlow, officiating Judge-Advocate. There is no legal power of interference on the part either of the Egyptian Government or of the British Agency with the execution of the decision of the Court, and I am confident that the character of the tribunal is the greatest safeguard possible against a miscarriage of justice.

Case of Mr. Cecil Bisset.

MR. THOMASSON (Leicester): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that Mr. Cecil Bisset, son of the late General J. J. Bisset, was in 1901 commissioned by Lord Roberts to raise a force of thirty Boers; that Mr. Cecil Bisset, having done this, was, on October 17th, 1901, ordered summarily to leave Kroonstad; that, on his reporting himself at Bloemfontein, he was told by Colonel Benson, military secretary to General Kelly-Kenny, that there were no charges against him, but that he could not be allowed to be in the same district with Captain de Bertodana; that a claim by Mr. Cecil Bisset for losses subsequent on his being thus obliged to leave was investigated at Kroonstad on May 1st, 1903; that Lord Milner, on May 13th, 1905, informed Mr. Cecil Bisset that his claim had been disallowed; that Mr. Cecil Bisset appealed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, alleging in substance that he had been made the victim of misrepresentations by Captain de Bertodana; that the late Secretary of State for the Colonies replied that he could not interfere in the matter; whether he can say if, since this decision, it has been ascertained that there was another Mr. C. Bisset, engaged at the time in question in procuring cattle for the same firm that employed Mr. Cecil Bisset for the same purpose; that some confusion has arisen from these two similarly occupied persons both bearing the name of C. Bisset; and whether the Secretary of State for the Colonies will now give his attention to this matter, with the view of finding out whether wrong has been done to Mr. Cecil Bisset.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The statements made in the first half of the Question were made in the appeal to the late Secretary of State, and Mr. Lyttelton saw no reason for interfering with the decision to disallow the claims, having been informed by the Governor, Sir Arthur Lawley, that Mr. Bisset's claim was investigated and rejected by the resident magistrate; that this finding was confirmed by the Central Judicial Commission, that the Commission subsequently, upon representations made by Mr. Bisset, again reviewed the claim but was satisfied that the original decision was proper, and that he, the Governor, approved the decision. It appears that Mr. Bisset received a commission in one of the local corps for which he drew pay in the ordinary manner. He was at the same time in the pay of Weil as an agent for the aquisition of cattle, and he also was himself dealing in cattle, his own evidence on the matter being clear. I have no knowledge that it has been ascertained, since the late Secretary of State arrived at his decision, that there were two Mr. Bisset's employed by Weil, and, as at present advised, the Secretary of State does not see how it would affect the decision, but he will ask the Governor to report upon the statement that there were two persons of the name in Weil's employ.

Compensation for Accidents to Postal Employees on Travelling Post Offices.

MR. STEADMAN (Finsbury, Central): To ask the Postmaster-General what are the arrangements between the Post Office and the railway companies for paying any compensation on account of accident that may be awarded to postal employees while engaged on the travelling post office; whether, in the event of damages being given to a postal servant in a court of law on account of such accidents, the post office pay a proportion of such damages; and, if so, what is the proportion.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The arrangements are not always the same, but in most cases any compensation awarded is paid by the railway companies.

Reduction of Mr. F. Gates, South-Western District Post Office.

MR. STEADMAN: To ask the Postmaster-General what are the grounds upon which the overseer, Mr. F. Gates, of the South-Western District Office has been reduced to the sorter's ranks; whether he is aware that this officer has over thirty-three years service, during eighteen of which he has been an overseer; will he say whether Mr. Gates has been called upon to explain any unsatisfactory conduct during his service as a supervisor; and will he inquire into the whole circumstances of this officer's career, with a view to his reinstatement as an overseer.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I have twice given careful consideration to the case of Mr. Gates and inquired into all the circumstances of his career, and I regret that I do not see my way to reinstate him.

Telegraphic Delays at Bristol.

MR. W. T. WILSON (Lancashire, Westhoughton): To ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the telegraphic delays which are taking place at the Bristol office: whether it is on official record that on a recent occasion 120 pages of Press telegrams were waiting transcription owing to shortage of staff; whether messages which should be transmitted to sub-offices are delivered by messengers from the head office and delay incurred, owing to the insufficiency of telegraphists to man the circuits; and whether, in the interests of the public service, he will personally investigate the administration of this office.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) My attention was called to the matter, and I am having a special investigation made into the matters referred to by the hon. Member, and I will communicate the result to him.

Poor Law Children in Workhouses.

SIR JOHN KENNAWAY (Devonshire, Honiton): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state the number of Poor Law children now in the workhouses and workhouse infirmaries of the Metropolis and the provinces, respectively, differentiating between those under and those above the age of three years.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) On January 1st, 1906, the latest date for which information is available, the numbers of pauper children relieved in workhouses and workhouse infirmaries in England and Wales were as follows:—

	Number of children chargeable to Poor Law Unions in London.	Number of children chargeable to Poor Law Unions outside London.	Total.
(a) Not including insane and idiots:—			
1. In workhouses, otherwise than in infirm wards -	1,023	13,543	14,566
2. In infirm wards or infirmaries - - -	2,061	4,899	6,960
(b) Insane and idiots in workhouses† - - -	5	288	293
	3,089	18,730	21,819

† There were also 156 children chargeable to London Unions in district sick asylums and 756 children in the imbecile asylums belonging to the managers of the Metropolitan Asylum Districts.

The number of children under three years of age chargeable to Poor Law unions in London in the workhouses, on January 6th, was 737, and in infirmaries 916. The numbers above the age of three years were on the same date 371 and 1,015 respectively. Similar information with regard to the rest of England and Wales is not available.

National Vaccine Establishments stock of Lymph.

SIR W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will grant a Return showing, as far as is known, the original sources of the various stocks of lymph which have been, or are being, employed by the National Vaccine Establishment, indicating those strains which are no longer in current use.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) As I have stated in reply to previous Questions, the usual method of renewing lymph, supplied from the National Vaccine Establishment, is by vaccinating calves with vaccine lymph obtained from children, but in some instances the lymph has been obtained from abroad, and in such cases it would usually not be practicable to give its original sources. In these circumstances I do not think that a Parliamentary Return of any value could be given. I may, however, state that in no case is lymph used at the establishment unless it has been passed through a series of calves.

Report of Ecclesiastical Disorders Commission

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth): To ask the Secretary of

State for the Home Department when the Report of the Royal Commission on Ecclesiastical Disorders will be in the hands of Members.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The Report is in the hands of the printers, and will, I hope, be ready for distribution at the beginning of next week.

Education Bill—State-aided Schools.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): To ask the President of the Board of Education if the State-aided schools founded by Clause 4 of the Education Bill are public elementary schools.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) As I stated yesterday, the point referred to in the Question is under consideration and I am not yet prepared to give an answer. The main general conditions of Parliamentary grants will certainly be applied to them, and the point is, therefore, not much more than one of terminology.

Rebuilding of Cules National Schools.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Cules, county Fermanagh, national school has been for several years in a dilapidated state; that the local education authority, on the ground of its condition, refuse to enforce attendance of children at it; that a grant for rebuilding has been applied for, the necessary local contribution having been raised, and that a very small grant was offered by the Commissioners, and was withdrawn on the ground that a new scheme for plans and grants was under consideration, and can he say when this new scheme will be published, and if any arrangement can be made to enable the Cules school to be carried on, as it is a large one attended by children of all religious denominations in the district.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that their inspector has reported the schoolhouse in question to be unsuitable for educational purposes. The Commissioners have no information as to the effect mentioned in the second inquiry. The Commissioners, on the manager's application, sanctioned in the first instance a grant of £201 for a new schoolhouse according to Plan No. I. to accommodate sixty pupils, but on the manager representing that he desired to have a schoolhouse for eighty pupils according to Plan II. the Commissioners agreed, on condition that the extra expense would be borne from local sources. The Commissioners have not withdrawn the grant, but they informed the manager that they could not sanction the supplemental grant for which he applied until the revised scheme of building plans and estimates should be settled. The Government are doing everything they can to hasten the settlement of this matter.

Irish Land Act—Section 23 (11)—Percentage Scale.

MR. P. A. MCHUGH: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have yet framed a percentage scale of fees, under Section 23 (11) of the Land Act of 1903; and whether it is proposed to publish particulars of the negotiation fees sanctioned under the provisions of that Act.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The scale of fees in question has not yet been settled, but each case which arises is dealt with on its merits by the Estates Commissioners. The forthcoming Report of the Commissioners will contain information on the subject.

Catholic Catechist at Armagh Union Schools.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can explain why the Local Government Board sanctioned the grant of a pension of £15 to the Protestant teacher and catechist to the Armagh union, but refused to sanction the pension of £9 voted to the Catholic assistant teacher and catechist; whether the Local Government Board refused to sanction the appointment of Miss O'Reilly as Catholic catechist, and, if so, on what grounds; whether the Catholic children are in charge of a non-Catholic matron, that night and morning prayers have to be recited by a pauper, and that the children have to be educated in the town schools: whether the Local Government Board have power to insist upon the appointment of a Catholic catechist; and whether they intend to make any attempt to relieve the present deadlock.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Local Government Board did not refuse to sanction a pension to Miss McKee, the assistant teacher, who acted as Catholic catechist. The guardians proposed, on July 29th, 1902, to abolish the office of schoolmistress, which was held by a Protestant, and that of assistant teacher, and to grant the holders superannuation allowances of £15 and £9 respectively, as compensation for loss of office, the workhouse children being sent to extern schools. The Board did not consent to these proposals, as they considered the arrangement objectionable, unless it were shown that the children were to be properly superintended before and after school hours. Despite the Board's protest, the guardians subsequently dispensed with the services of Miss McKee, and the Board had no power to prevent them from doing so. In September, 1903, the schoolmistress resigned on the grounds of permanent infirmity, and, with the Board's approval, was awarded a pension of £20 a year in respect of her service of twenty-four years. The Local Government Board did not refuse to sanction the appointment of Miss O'Reilly as Roman Catholic catechist. The guardians appointed her as Roman Catholic attendant, and while the Board were in correspondence with the guardians and the chaplain as to her duties she resigned, having accepted another situation. The matron is a Protestant. It is the duty of the master to make arrangements for the recital of morning and evening prayers. The workhouse children attend outside schools, where they presumably receive religious instruction. The Local Government Board have no power, under the existing regulations, to compel the guardians to appoint a Roman Catholic catechist.

Irish Land Purchase—Case of John Duffy.

MR. DUFFY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that John Duffy Attymon, county Galway, a tenant on the Dunsandle Estate, signed an agreement to purchase his holding at the time the sale of the property took place; that the agreement specified that the annual rent for the purpose of purchase would be £14 per year; and that the Commissioners now threaten to nullify the agreement and increase the rent from £14 to £16 a year within fourteen days unless the tenant surrenders to them a portion of his land; and whether, seeing that the disputed land was before the County Court and the Court of Assizes, presided over by Lord Justice Holmes, who gave a verdict and costs in favour of Mr. Duffy, he will explain why the Estates Commissioners threaten this tenant with a deprivation of his rights; and by what right or authority do they threaten to increase his rent from £14, the sum mentioned in the agreement, to £16.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that John Duffy signed an undertaking to purchase his holding, comprising 43½ acres held at a rent of £16, for the sum of £336. The price at which the Commissioners were prepared to sell to Duffy was fixed at this low sum on condition that a passage through the holding for other purchasers should be reserved. Duffy has refused to allow this passage to be used, and on April 24th last the Commissioners informed him that if he should persist in this refusal they might decline to sell the holding to him, in which case he would remain tenant at the rent of £16.

Wireless Telegraphy in the Army and Navy.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary of State for War what system of wireless telegraphy is being adopted for the Army; and whether the Navy using the Marconi apparatus are free from any agreements or impediments as regards intercommunication between the two systems.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The War Department are experimenting with the Lodge Muirhead and another system, but are not committed to the exclusive adoption of either. The Admiralty may not communicate from Admiralty shore stations in the United Kingdom by Marconi's system with any other system used by the War Department, except during war time or case of emergency; but there would be no technical difficulty in such communication.

Pay of Government Employees attending Volunteer Camps.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether the men in the Government employ at the Royal Gunpowder Factory at Waltham Abbey and the Royal Small Arms Factory at Enfield, who recently attended the volunteer camp of the Bedfordshire Brigade, were stopped their week's pay in consequence of their so doing; and, if so, whether he will give an undertaking that, in future, these men shall have made good to them the deficiency between their week's pay and their camp allowance, 10s. 2d.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The pay of men employed in the Ordnance factories attending Volunteer camps is stopped during the period of their absence from work, unless they are entitled to leave with pay and can arrange to take such leave while at the camps. It must be remembered that on an emergency the services of these men would be far more urgently required in the factories than as Volunteers.

Sunday Performances of Military Bands.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he can explain under what circumstances the band of the 1st Royal Irish Fusiliers performed a programme at Bray Head, county Wicklow, on Sunday afternoon, the 23rd ultimo; and whether military bands are fulfilling part of the Army Regulations in giving Sunday performances.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Military bands are permitted to play on Sundays between the hours of 2 p.m. and 9.30 p.m., subject to certain special conditions.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Admiralty Clerks.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state the reasons for the increase in the staff employed in Admiralty work under Vote 12 since the Navy Estimates of 1904–5, being an increase from sixty-eight to eighty-one officials in the Secretary's department, from 314 to 360 in the department of the Controller of the Navy, and 261 to 290 in the Accountant-General's department; whether the Admiralty Vote for salaries and allowances has gone up from £306,217 in 1904–5 to £329,809 in 1906–7, seeing that there has been a reduction both in the numbers of ships and *personnel* administered during the period.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): The increase in the Secretary's department amounts to three only, the provision in 1906–7 including ten extra clerks provided for in 1904–5 under Subhead B. Of the increase of forty-six in the Controller's department, thirty-one are under the Constructive Branches—being principally drawing staff borne temporarily additional to March 31st, 1907, for work in connection with the "Dreadnought" and new cruiser designs. The development of the Electrical Engineer's department, and the increase of professional work generally account for the remainder. The increase in the Accountant-General's department is almost entirely in the subordinate staff. The reduction in the number of ships and *personnel* affects only a section of the Department, and even that is more than counterbalanced by increase in the complexity of the work and the shortening of the period of commissions. The increase in the total Estimate is not wholly due to additional numbers. No small part of it is due to progressive increases within the various scales of salary. These are somewhat heavy owing to the staff being comparatively junior.

The Admiralty and the Marconi Company.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will take steps to lay before Parliament the agreement dated July 24th, 1903, between the Admiralty and Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, which agreement is referred to in the agreement between the Postmaster-General and the Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company, Limited, and the Marconi International Marine Communication Company, Limited, dated August 11th, 1904, and ordered by the House of Commons to be printed on April 11th, 1906.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The Answer is in the affirmative. I hope that the agreement will be in the hands of Members early next week.

Sleeping Sickness at Entebbe.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the continued prevalence and fatal character of sleeping sickness about Entebbe, he will consider the advisability of removing the seat of Government from there to Kampala, the ancient and more convenient capital, and less exposed to the disease.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): We have not been led to form the opinion that Kampala would be a more convenient capital or less exposed to the disease of sleeping sickness.

Uganda—Sleeping Sickness.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if any steps are being taken in Uganda to prevent the spread of sleeping sickness by drawing cordons round infected districts, by destroying the breeding places of the particular fly that carries the disease, or especially by discouraging settlement round the lake or by stagnant water.

MR. CHURCHILL: The very full and careful investigations which, as the hon. Member is no doubt aware, are being conducted under the supervision of the Royal Society do not indicate that it will be practicable to prevent the spread of sleeping sickness by the methods referred to in the Question. The Secretary of State is advised that the only means of arresting the spread of the disease which would be practicable would be by the discovery of some treatment, curative or preventive, capable of being applied to man. This matter is now engaging the attention of the Tropical Diseases Committee of the Royal Society.

Lake Victoria—Sleeping Sickness.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary for the Colonies if he is aware of the fact that sleeping sickness has almost depopulated the islands in Lake Victoria; that recently a forest concession has been granted of a large island there; and if, in order to save natives from risk of death from employment on the concession, and to prevent the spreading still further of the disease, stringent instructions will be transmitted to the Commissioner.

MR. CHURCHILL: It is lamentably true that sleeping sickness is rife on Lake Victoria, though I cannot say whether any islands have been actually depopulated. No report of the concession referred to by my hon. friend has yet been received.

MR. CATHCART WASON: Will this fact be borne in mind before further concessions are granted, seeing that such grants only mean sending the natives to their death?

MR. CHURCHILL: Yes, Sir, that will be most carefully considered.

Chinese Coolies in South Africa—The Repatriation Proclamation.

MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has yet obtained a translation of the original proclamation to the Chinese labourers in the Transvaal; and, if so, whether, and in what respects, it differs from the notice read to the House on 3rd May last.†

MR. CHURCHILL: I have obtained a translation which shows that the proclamation as posted in Chinese in the mines was a fair and accurate translation of the text read by me to the House, and differed from it only in the formal addition at the end, which it is usual to omit in translations from the Chinese.

MR. BOTTOMLEY asked who had made the translation, and whether steps had been taken to ascertain whether any considerable number of Chinese coolies could read even their own language.

MR. CHURCHILL said the translation would shortly be presented to Parliament in a Blue-book, and hon. Members could then compare the two versions for themselves. The translator was the official translator at the Foreign Office. Chinese illiterates, he understood, had the document read to them by their comrades.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 706.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): Has the hon. Gentleman any idea of the number of Chinese illiterates at the mines?

MR. CHURCHILL: No, Sir.

MR. BOTTOMLEY: Had the Chinese translator at the Foreign Office before him the version read to the House last May by the hon. Gentleman?

MR. CHURCHILL: Yes, and the Blue-book will give the details line by line of the two versions.

MR. MYER (Lambeth, N.): Will the hon. Gentleman have the proclamation delivered to the Chinese orally?

*MR. SPEAKER: That does not arise out of the Question.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether an amended proclamation as to the repatriation of Chinese coolies is to be issued, and, if so, what are to be the terms.

MR. CHURCHILL: The question of an amended proclamation is under consideration, but I am not yet able to make any more definite statement on the subject. Perhaps my hon. and gallant friend will repeat his Question in the early days of next week.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): May I ask the hon. Gentleman if in preparing the new proclamation he will bear in mind that it is impossible to keep men at this kind of work without some form of torture?

*MR. SPEAKER: That is not connected with the Question on the Paper.

The Johannesburg "Standard and Diggers' News."

MR. SCOTT (Ashton-under-Lyne): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the independent expert employed by Lord Selborne to ascertain what would be a fair and reasonable payment in respect of the use of Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce's premises and plant by the military authorities was Mr. Fairbridge, the manager of the Argus Printing Company of Johannesburg, a company opposed to Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce, proprietors of the late *Johannesburg Standard and Diggers' News* in the pre-war days; whether he is aware that the most recent and previous annual balance sheets of the Argus Company, his own company, show that 10 per cent. and 15 per cent. per annum are the amounts allowed for depreciation of plant and machinery; and whether, upon that basis, the depreciation in the value of the Harrison Street plant and machinery belonging to Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce, and valued at £18,000 in 1900, should stand at £2,400 to £3,600, and not at £800 as valued by the independent expert, Mr. Fairbridge.

MR. CHURCHILL: Mr. Fairbridge was employed by Lord Selborne, and his valuation of £800 as compensation for the occupation of the Harrison Street premises was confirmed by another expert, a property valuator of Johannesburg, who was recommended to the Transvaal Government as a valuator of wide experience. I have not seen the balance sheets of the Argus Company, but I understand that, whilst some time ago 1 per cent. per month was written off on machinery, this rate was discovered to be far too high, and that the present rate of 6 per cent. per annum will have to be lowered.

MR. SCOTT: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will lay upon the Table a Return of the Transvaal Auditor-General's balance sheet and profit and loss account dealing with Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce's properties, plant, and printing offices, showing a profit of £19,855 15s. 4d., after crediting Mendelssohn and Bruce with £4,895 as an amount due to them as assessed by the Auditor-General.

MR. CHURCHILL: Isolated documents of this character cannot be published with advantage. The correspondence on this question under the late Government has been protracted and is in part confidential. Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce appear to have stated from the outset that they themselves had not declared a dividend since the formation of the firm. The case of the Government of the Transvaal rests partly upon the fact that no profits at all could have been earned by the machinery of Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce during a period of war and censorship, except through its employment for official purposes. Mr. Mendelssohn's last letter containing his reasoned protest against the award of £2,500 is being referred to the Governor of the Transvaal, with whose Government the obligation of meeting the claim rests; and that protest will receive fair consideration.

Crime among the Chinese Coolies.

MAJOR SEELY: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the continued danger to life and property caused by the Chinese coolies on the Witwatersrand and adjacent areas in the Transvaal, His Majesty's Government will consider the propriety of stopping any further importation under the 8,000 permits still outstanding, or of imposing a time limit in the near future, after which all importation shall cease.

MR. CHURCHILL: His Majesty's Government are led to believe that the improvements which are being carried out in the management and control of the Chinese labourers will not prove ineffective in preventing the dangers mentioned. The question of fixing a time limit after which all importation under existing permits shall cease will be considered.

MAJOR SEELY: What are the improvements referred to in the Answer?

MR. CHURCHILL: If the hon. Member had been constant in his attendance at Question time he would have heard me read out a list, one day last week, I think it was.†

MAJOR SEELY: I have been constantly here.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): When will these changes be considered? It is long since they were promised. Does the Secretary of State fully appreciate the profound dissatisfaction at the delay——

*MR. SPEAKER: Notice must be given of that Question.

MAJOR SEELY: May I say neither I nor my friends around me understand what the Under-Secretary is proposing in the form of improvements?

MR. CHURCHILL: I will refer hon. Members to the Answer I gave to a Question on the subject last week.†

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent) asked whether, in view of the fact that these licences were issued last November, it was not nearly time the importations fell short.

MR. CHURCHILL: I think it is nearly time.

MR. PAUL (Northampton): Who is to pay the cost of the improvements?

MR. CHURCHILL: The cost of the improvements which involve expenditure of money will fall on the mine-owners themselves.

The Cason Mining Company.

MR. FELL (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can state the name of the individual who forwarded to the authorities the evidence on which the charge was framed against the manager of the Cason Mining Company, and who demanded his prosecution.

MR. CHURCHILL: I have at present no official information, but a report upon the case has been called for by telegraph and will reach us by mail.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the prosecution of the manager of the Cason Mining Company for cruelty to a Chinese coolie took place with the authority, or at the instance of, the Colonial Office; if so, on what evidence was such prosecution ordered; and what steps the Government propose to take to recompense the manager for the mistake made.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 1361.

MR. CHURCHILL: The prosecution took place without the cognisance of the Colonial Office.

Coolie Riot in the Nourse Mine.

MR. MOND (Chester): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has made inquiries concerning the riot caused by 400 Chinese coolies in the Nourse Mine, and what is the result of such inquiries.

MR. CHURCHILL: Inquiry has been made by mail, but if the hon. Member is anxious for early information, the Secretary of State will telegraph.

Coolie Outrages in South Africa.

MR. MOND: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he can state what steps the Government intend to take to stop the continuance of almost daily outrages on the white population by Chinese coolies; and whether the Government will cause legislation to be introduced into the Legislative Council of the Transvaal, rendering the employers responsible in damages for outrages committed by coolies in their employ.

MR. CHURCHILL: It is the hope of His Majesty's Government that the measures recently recommended by the Committee which considered the question,† a copy of whose Report will be laid before Parliament with other Papers, will check the outrages, which are the work of a small section of the Chinese. The question of amending the laws of the Transvaal in such a way as to make the importers of indentured labourers responsible in damages for the good behaviour of such labourers during their period of service is one which evidently calls for the attention of Ministers responsible to a Transvaal Parliament. In view of the advent of such an assembly His Majesty's Government do not propose to initiate such legislation themselves.

"Tremble and Obey."

MR. CLEMENT EDWARDS (Denbigh District): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if, when the terms of the Transvaal Labour Ordinance were first posted at the recruiting stations in China, the Chinese equivalent for tremble and obey constituted part of such posters.

MR. CHURCHILL: The posting of the Labour Ordinance in China did not constitute a proclamation under the local authority; and, in the circumstances, it seems not unlikely, though the Secretary of State has no certain information, that the admonitions which usually conclude official proclamations did not form a part of the notice.

MR. J. WARD: Have any further requests been made for repatriation beyond the jury of twelve already announced?

MR. CHURCHILL: Yes; forty-three labourers in all have applied according to the latest report, and we are expecting a further report very shortly.

MR. CLEMENT EDWARDS: What is the distinction between an ordinary proclamation and one issued under the Labour Ordinance?

MR. CHURCHILL: I suppose there is a difference between notices issued by mine-owners inviting labour and those issued under the authority of the Government.

MR. CLEMENT EDWARDS: Was not the Labour Ordinance a Government document?

MR. CHURCHILL: Those published in China certainly were not.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): What is the use of sending forty-three labourers back to China if you admit 8,000 more into South Africa?

[No Answer was returned.]

British Guiana.

MR. J. WARD: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether Lord Elgin has replied to the public petition of the inhabitants of British Guiana; and whether he intends to grant a commission of inquiry into the grievances contained in such petition, or otherwise take action to remove the complaints of the inhabitants.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clviii, 1361.

MR. CHURCHILL: Pending the publication of Papers on this subject, which will include the text of the petition together with a despatch from the Secretary of State comprising a full and categorical reply to the complaints of the petitioners, I am unable to add anything to the Answer which I gave to a similar Question by the hon. Member for North Salford on 26th instant.†

West Africa—Alcoholic Imports.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary for the Colonies if his attention has been directed to the proportion of revenue derived from the importation of rum and gin to West Africa, and the sale of the same to the natives, and to the legislation of New Zealand, and other countries, on the subject; and if he will take advantage of the presence of the Governors of North and South Nigeria to consult and consider how the traffic can, if not put an end to, at least be minimised.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State is watching with close attention the traffic which is the subject of the hon. Member's Questions. There is no need to discuss restrictive measures with the High Commissioner of Northern Nigeria; for the sale and importation of spirits in that Protectorate is already absolutely prohibited. The state of the law in Southern Nigeria and in Lagos, where existing conditions are more complex, will fall within the discussions of the International Liquor Conference to be held at Brussels in the autumn of this year; and the Secretary of State prefers to await the result of that Conference before taking new decisions.

MR. CATHCART WASON: Is the hon. Gentleman aware a large proportion of the revenues of Northern Nigeria is derived from the charges on these drinks?

MR. CHURCHILL'S Answer was inaudible.

MR. CATHCART WASON: Does the prohibition apply to both black and whites?

MR. CHURCHILL asked for notice of that Question. In answer to a further Question, the hon. Gentleman said the matter would be further considered after the International Liquor Conference.

Russia and the Aland Islands.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether Russian troops have occupied the Aland Islands, in the Gulf of Botnia; and, if so, whether it is intended to take any steps to maintain the provisions of the Treaty of Paris.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): We have no information to show that the Russian Government contemplate any breach of the provisions of the Treaty of Paris by fortifying the Aland Islands, or maintaining or creating military or naval establishments there.

The Russian Massacres.

MR. THORNE (West Ham, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that 70,000 unarmed people are estimated to have been slaughtered by the Russian Government in the Baltic Provinces since the beginning of this year; whether he is cognisant of the fact that the massacres of Jews in Biolostoc were organised by the Russian officials; and if, in view of these facts, the Government will cancel the sending of the British Fleet to Cronstadt.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Answer to all these Questions is in the negative.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): Is not the only way this country has of marking its sense of the nature of these occurrences to decline to send the Fleet to Russian ports?

SIR EDWARD GREY: I must refer the hon. Member to the Answer I gave the other day.† I have nothing to add with regard to the movements of the Fleet; but, as I have said, if it is desired that I should make a fuller statement or that I should argue the question, I will do so next Thursday.

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† See Col. 765.

† See Col. 768.

The Servian Regicides.

MR. BOTTOMLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, at the time of resuming diplomatic relations with Servia, he was aware that several of the regicides had just been pensioned, with an increase of pay, for very special services rendered to the State, and that others were still occupying important posts at the Servian Court; and whether it was by accident or design that the date chosen for the announcement of the resumption of diplomatic relations was the anniversary of the murder of the late King and Queen.

SIR EDWARD GREY: His Majesty's Government made the resumption of diplomatic relations conditional upon the retirement of the principal regicides from posts held by them under the Servian Government, so that their future positions would not bring them into relations with British representatives in Servia. This condition has been complied with, and His Majesty's Government are not concerned with other matters. I was not aware of the fact stated at the end of the Question.

The Attack on British Officers in Egypt.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in reference to the recent affray between British officers and Egyptians at Tantah, whether he has yet received any detailed information as to the circumstances which led to the affray; whether any of the natives were killed or injured; if any natives were killed or injured; will the British officers who took part in the affray be tried; whether the pigeons shot on these occasions are tame or wild pigeons; whether pigeon shooting in the neighbourhood of villages is a legal occupation in Egypt; whether in this instance the permission of the head man of the village had been obtained by the officers before they commenced to shoot; what were the special grounds on which the Agent and Consul of Great Britain demanded that the accused Egyptians in this case should be sent for trial before the Special Tribunal; and whether there is any appeal from the Special Tribunal before which the Egyptians are to be tried.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I cannot answer all the details of the hon. Member's Question. I do not know whether any native was killed or injured, but our information is that the British officers, when they were attacked by the natives, gave up their guns and refused to fire in self-defence, and if any natives were killed, it was clearly not by the action of the British officers. When a report appeared in the Press yesterday, I telegraphed to know what the sentences were, and what were the facts established at the trial, saying that it was desirable we should know them before any death sentences were executed. The information I received is as follows:—The sentences were as stated in the Press. With regard to the trial, the prisoners were defended by three of the best known native advocates, who had a full hearing. The Court was unanimous as regards the prisoners found guilty, and the evidence clearly established premeditation and concerted action. Thirty-one of the prisoners were acquitted, and twenty-one were found guilty. The Court expressed its opinion that the British officers had behaved with extreme forbearance and self-restraint. The chief attack took place after they had given up their guns, and was persisted in with great brutality. I am also informed that, in the opinion of Judge Bond and Mr. Hayter, the Acting Judicial Adviser, both members of the Court, the first six prisoners would undoubtedly have been found guilty of murder by a British jury. The Special Court was composed of the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who has had several years experience in the Ministry of Justice, and is acting Minister of Justice in the absence of the latter; Mr. Bond, Vice-President of the Native Court of Appeal, whose position is practically that of Lord Chief Justice; Fathig Bey, President of the Cairo Native Court; Mr. Hayter, Acting Judicial Adviser, formerly a Judge in the Soudan; and Colonel Ludlow, officiating Judge Advocate. There is no legal power of interference on the part either of the Egyptian Government or of the British agency with the execution of the decision of the Court, and I am confident that the character of the tribunal is the greatest safeguard possible against a miscarriage of justice.

MR. DILLON pointed out that the right hon. Gentleman had not said whether it was legal or illegal to shoot these pigeons in native villages, whether they were the property of the villagers, and whether a native woman was wounded or killedbefore the officers were attacked.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I understand that no one was wounded or killed before the officers were attacked, but that, after the guns had been given up by the officers, one of the guns was let off and caused injury to, I think, four people, including one woman. But that was not by the officers. With regard to pigeon shooting, I understand that pigeons are never to be shot except with the consent of the headman of the village. In this case the officers arrived in the carriage of the local magnate and assumed that a complete understanding had taken place. As to the future, it is quite clear that, after such a serious accident as this, there should be no more pigeon shooting, and I understand that instructions were given some time ago that it should cease.

MR. PAUL asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he would consider the possibility of procuring through Lord Cromer the remission of the floggings that formed part of the sentences in this case.

MR. BYLES asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he had any information as to whether the persons sentenced to death had been executed, and, if not, whether, in all the circumstances of the case, it was impossible yet to save their lives [Cries of "Oh,"] inasmuch as the nature of the *fracas* did not indicate murder in the sense in which we in England understood it.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I have not actually heard whether the death sentences have been carried out, but they were to be executed at two o'clock this afternoon according to Egyptian time. I assume, therefore, that that has already taken place. With regard to the character of the crime, two of the Judges were men with English knowledge as well as experience in Egyptian law, and they stated that, in their opinion, not only four but six of the natives would have been convicted of murder by a British jury. I understand that the sentences of flogging were to be executed immediately; but, with regard to the general question, I quite sympathise with my hon. friend's feeling, which is shared by a large number of people, as to the desirability of watching sentences of the kind very closely. I do not know the extent to which flogging is possible under Egyptian law, but I propose to take the opportunity of discussing that when Lord Cromer is in England, with a view to knowing to what extent it is possible, and whether any change is desirable.

Whisky.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the inconvenience caused to the trade by the failure, owing to the absence of a full bench of magistrates, to arrive at a definite decision in the recent appeal at the Newington County Sessions Court with regard to the nature of whisky; and whether he proposes to take any steps to secure a determination of the point at issue in this action.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): Whisky as such is not known to the Revenue Laws. The Excise duties upon the different kinds of spirit sold as whisky are the same. I am not interested, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the definition of the word, nor is there any way in which as Chancellor of the Exchequer I could raise the question for legal decision.

Income-Tax.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the fact that many large traders at the Earl's Court Exhibition and other places have no permanent premises in this country, and consequently, in many cases, escape the payment of income-tax; and whether he proposes to take any action for the protection of the revenue in such cases.

MR. ASQUITH: The question of the liability of the traders referred to has not been lost sight of by the local income-tax officials, but, having regard to the heavy expenses which exhibitors are at, and the difficulty there would be in collecting any duty assessed—the Exhibition being open only from May 1st to October 1st—no assessments have been raised other than on persons who have occupied stalls from year to year. A proportion of the principal exhibitors have London branches or agencies, and in those cases the profits fall for assessment in the usual way.

Prosecutions for Food Adulteration at Leicester.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to two cases of prosecution for adulteration which came before the Leicester magistrates, who fined a woman just started in business in a small shop £10 for adulterating butter, and who imposed upon a grocer long established in business £5 also for adulterating butter, and for, at the same time, obstructing the inspector; and whether he will state what action the Home Office proposes to take in the matter.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): Yes, Sir; and I have been in communication with the justices on the subject. On the facts submitted, I am unable to see how the £5 can be justified if the £10 fine was just. But I have no power to raise the amount of a fine. As regards the £10 fine, which was paid at once, while I think, under the circumstances, it was severe, the severity did not appear to me quite to justify interference, having regard to the necessity which exists in the public interest to deal effectively with offences against the Food and Drugs Act.

Vivisection.

MR. G. GREENWOOD (Peterborough): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to the fact that the recently issued Return of Experiments on Living Animals for the year 1905 shows an increase of no less than 5,373 of such experiments as compared with the Return for 1904; whether he knows any reason to account for this increase; and whether he can now say when the Commission to inquire into the matter of vivisection will be appointed, and what the terms of reference to such Commission will be.

*MR. GLADSTONE: My hon. friend will see from the Return that nearly the whole of the increase in the number of experiments—5,083 out of the total of 5,373—is accounted for by the additional inoculations, hypodermic injections, and feeding experiments which have been made. The increase is due to the greater importance attached to biological tests in practical medicine, and to the greater number of these experiments which are performed on behalf of local and other public authorities. With regard to the composition and terms of reference of the proposed Royal Commission, I hope to be able to make an announcement very shortly.

MR. G. GREENWOOD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can state why a change has been made in the form of the Return of Experiments on Living Animals, viz., that the recently issued Return for the year 1905 does not purport to distinguish, as did former Returns, between painless and painful experiments.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The change was made because it is found impracticable to make a separation between painful and painless experiments. In some cases it is impossible for anyone, even the operator or observer, to say whether pain is caused or not. It is, of course, important to ascertain and to indicate the extent to which pain is caused to animals by experiment, and the inspector's report, which precedes the Return, gives this information as far as possible with regard to particular classes of experiments.

Metropolitan Police at Ascot.

DR. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any of the Metropolitan Police were employed in maintaining order at Ascot during the race meeting, and, if any, how many; and whether any of the cost of such duty will be defrayed out of the Metropolitan Police rate.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The Metropolitan Police were engaged in maintaining order at Ascot during the race meeting, the numbers employed on this duty being, on the 19th, 563; 20th, 506; 21st, 628; and on the 22nd, 456. The cost will not fall on the Metropolitan Police rate.

DR. COOPER asked on whose authority the Metropolitan Police were called upon to do duty at the expense of the ratepayers nine miles beyond the boundary of the Metropolitan Police area.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I have already said the cost does not fall on the metropolitan rate. As regards the practice, I can only say it has been carried on for a great number of years, and this is the first time my attention has been called to it. I cannot say exactly on whose authority the police are sent.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland) asked who paid the cost.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I understand that the principal cost is borne by the Master of the Buckhounds and the railway company.

MR. THORNE asked if the police received extra pay for their extra duty.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am not aware that it is extra duty.

MR. MORTON asked if the Master of the Buckhounds received payment from the public funds.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am not aware.

MR. PAUL: Has not the office of Master of the Buckhounds been abolished ?

[No Answer was returned]

Defaulting Solicitors.

MR. BOTTOMLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state why, in the recent Return under the Prosecution of Offences Acts, 1879 to 1884, under the heading of Defaulting Solicitors, one case is referred to as Rex *v.* ———, acquitted, whilst in all other cases the names of acquitted persons are published.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The name of the solicitor in question is given in its proper place on page 15 of Return. The Director of Public Prosecutions very properly avoided giving it special prominence in the introductory note from which the hon. Member quotes.

Lead Poisoning in the Coach-Making Trade.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the increase in the number of cases of lead poisoning in the coach-making industry for the five months ending May, 1906, the number being thirty-five as compared with nineteen for the corresponding period of 1905; whether he can apportion the number of cases in factories and workshops respectively; and whether he proposes to establish any additional precautions by way of special rules or otherwise.

*MR. GLADSTONE: Yes, Sir; the number of cases in the first five months of 1905 was, however, exceptionally small, the average for the corresponding periods of the six years 1901–6 inclusive, being twenty-six. Of thirty-five cases which took place in the first five months of 1906, twenty-seven occurred in factories and eight in workshops. The question of framing regulations is under my consideration.

Cement Factories—Workmen's Shelters.

MR. J. WARD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the generally low standard of sanitation prevailing and the complete want of proper shelters for workmen in cement factories throughout the country; and whether he has power under the Factory Acts to cause such factories to be properly inspected; and, if not, whether he proposes to introduce legislation dealing with the subject.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am not aware that the standard of sanitation in cement works generally is low. Cement works are, of course, dusty, and the maintenance of cleanliness is not easy. I will call for special reports on the subject. As regards inspection, the inspectors have the same powers under the Factory Act in regard to cement works as they have in regard to other classes of factories and workshops. I have no reason to suppose that these are insufficient in the case of cement works.

Census of Production —Proposed Inclusion of Agricultural Products.

MR. BECK (Cambridgeshire, Wisbech): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he will consider the advisability of including agricultural produce in the Census of Production Bill.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): I am in communication with the President of the Board of Agriculture on the subject. My impression is that much of the information with regard to agricultural production which would be required for the Census is already collected by the Board of Agriculture.

Island of Cumbrae Steamer Service.

*MR. LAMONT (Buteshire): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to notices published on June 23rd by the Glasgow and South Western Railway Company and by the Caledonian Steam Packet Company to the effect that on and after July 2nd next, their steamers will cease to call at Millport and Keppel Piers, in the Island of Cumbrae; whether he has received any protest from the local authority of Millport against the withdrawal of these steamer services, whereby alone communication with the mainland is maintained, as disastrous to the interests of the inhabitants; whether he has made any representation to the companies on the subject, and, if so, what answer they have made; whether he is aware that the local authority has offered to refer to arbitration any point in dispute, and that the companies have refused and insist that unless the local authority unconditionally accepts their terms the services will be discontinued; and whether he will take action to avert the withdrawal of the steamer service.

MR. RAINY (Kilmarnock Burghs): I beg also to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the threatened cessation of the steamer service to Millport on Saturday next will prevent dwellers in other towns from obtaining access to houses they have acquired in Millport as summer residences; and what action he proposes to take in the matter.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: In reply to my hon. friends I regret that I am at present unable to add to the Answer which I gave yesterday to the Question in this matter addressed to me by the hon. Member for North Londonderry.†

MR. CLYNES (Manchester, N.E.): Does not this show the necessity for the nationalisation of our railways, so that they may be carried on for the advantage of the public?

*MR. SPEAKER: That hardly arises out of the Question.

London Tramway Service.

DR. COOPER: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been directed to the isolation of certain districts of the county of London from the tramway service of the London County Council owing to the use by some of the metropolitan borough councils of the right of vetoing projected tramway schemes; and whether he has or will consider the advisability of abolishing at an early date this power, and also the power to decide what form of traction shall be used.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I am fully aware of the disadvantages to the tramway service of London arising from the rights of veto possessed by the metropolitan borough councils both under Standing Orders and under the Tramways Act, but I am not at present in a position to make any further statement in the matter. With regard to the method of traction to be employed on the London County Council Tramways, the decision already rests with the Board of Trade under the London County Council Electrical Power Act, 1900.

Joint Stock Companies.

MR. BARRAN (Leeds, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he is aware of the condition of the registers of joint stock companies at Somerset House, dirt and wear having made it impossible to trace the names of many companies, and whether he will have the necessary repairs done or new registers provided.

I beg also to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether, in consideration of the increased number of persons requiring to visit the search room to see the registers of joint stock companies at Somerset House, he can see his way to having more accommodation provided.

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† See Col. 932.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: New registers or indexes with improved desks to facilitate reference to them have been in preparation for some time, and it is expected that the arrangements will be complete in the course of the next three months. The cost of printing the indexes is considerable. They are calculated to last five years, but from their increased bulk and the ever-increasing numbers of persons using them, those at present in use have not lasted so long as usual. The question of increased space for the accommodation and comfort of the large number of persons attending daily to inspect companies' files has been under serious consideration for some time. The Board of Inland Revenue experience a difficulty in the matter as the space at their disposal is limited, but I hope at an early date that such arrangements will be made as will result in obviating, for some years to come, complaints in that direction.

The "Vaderland"—Refusal to Send Information by Wireless Telegraphy.

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been drawn to the alleged refusal of the steamer "Vaderland" to communicate by wireless telegraphy information concerning a derelict which the American vessel "Lebanon" had been sent out by the American Government to destroy; whether steamers fitted with Marconi apparatus are under any agreement not to communicate with other systems; and, if so, whether the Board of Trade intend to take any action in the matter.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): The hon. Member will perhaps allow me to answer this Question. I have no information regarding the alleged refusal of the steamer "Vaderland" (which I understand is not a British ship) to communicate with a ship equipped with another system; but such action would in ordinary circumstances be in accordance with the Marconi Company's practice. Proposals for ensuring intercommunication without regard to the system employed will be submitted to the International Conference on Wireless Telegraphy which will meet at Berlin next October.

Cape Mails.

MR. H. D. MCLAREN (Staffordshire, W.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that inconvenience arises to the mercantile community in Stafford, Birmingham, and other manufacturing centres, owing to the arrival and departure of the Cape mails on the same day, namely, Saturday, causing always a delay of a week in answering letters from South Africa; and whether he will endeavour to arrange with the shipping companies concerned that the incoming mails shall be landed in this country not later than Thursday.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I am aware of the inconvenience to which the hon. Member refers, but unfortunately I fear that there is no remedy. Any alteration in the direction indicated would result in serious inconvenience in South Africa.

Sunday Postal Deliveries in Scotland.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he will state on what grounds of moral or economic necessity postmen are compelled to deliver letters, newspapers, commercial matter in rural districts in Scotland at certain places and houses, and at certain houses only, on the Sabbath; and if, having regard to the money which would be saved to the country, without any detriment to the public service, he will consider the advisability of discontinuing this Sabbath breaking on the part of the State.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: This subject has engaged the attention of several Parliamentary Committees—the last of which sat in 1887. The present practice under which Sunday deliveries are instituted or discontinued at the request of the representatives of the persons affected is founded upon the recommendations of those Committees, and has worked satisfactorily. There are comparatively very few Sunday posts in rural districts in Scotland, and they are laid out with the view of minimising Sunday labour. The wishes of those postmen who desire exemption from Sunday work are complied with as far as practicable. As I stated in the Post Office debate, I desire to discourage and not to encourage Sunday labour in the Post Office service.

Wireless Telegraphy Bill.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General which day he proposes to take into consideration the Lords' Amendments to the Wireless Telegraphy Bill.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON said he did not know when they would be taken, but he believed the Amendments were the outcome of an agreement, and under the circumstances there was a desire to get the Bill through with as little delay as possible.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): Will notice be given when it is intended to bring the Bill in?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I will see what can be done.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: Is not the right hon. Gentleman incorrectly assuming that this is not a highly controversial Bill?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I am assuming nothing.

Glasgow Post Office Medical Officers.

MR. CLELAND (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he is now in a position to state the number of medical officers he proposes to appoint to carry out the duties formerly performed by the post office medical officer for Glasgow, and the respective districts he proposes to allocate to each; and whether, having regard to the present position of affairs, he can see his way to expedite the appointments proposed to be made.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I propose to appoint six medical officers for Glasgow. Full particulars of the respective districts can be obtained by candidates from the postmaster of Glasgow. In regard to the latter part of the Question, I have already answered it in reply to the Question of my hon. friend the Member for Buteshire.

*MR. LAMONT (Buteshire): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he can now see his way to fill the vacant posts of medical officers to the Glasgow Post Office, in order to relieve Scottish Members of the burden of correspondence placed on them by the applications of medical men from all parts of the country.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: As soon as it was possible to decide into how many districts Glasgow should be divided for medical purposes, instructions were at once given that the six vacancies should be advertised in the usual way, and that applications be invited within seven days. These applications are to be sent to the postmaster at Glasgow; and applications already received either locally or at headquarters will be considered, unless, in view of the altered circumstances, they are withdrawn. The appointments will be made as soon as possible, but the number of applicants is enormous, and the selections will necessarily take time. I am anxious to relieve hon. Members of the burden of correspondence thrown upon them in connection with these medical and other appointments for their own sake, and, I may add, for my own also. I ventured to suggest to the House in the debate on the Post Office Estimates that the present system of approaching Members in order that they should bring pressure to bear in regard to those and other appointments was very much to be deprecated, and I hope that I shall have the general support of the House in discouraging the system as far as possible.

MR. WATT (Glasgow, College): I beg to ask the Postmaster General if he has taken into consideration the advisability of appointing one or more female doctors to the position of medical officers to the post office at Glasgow; and if he will now say into how many districts he proposes to divide the appointment.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I do not think it would be advisable to appoint female medical officers to any of the six districts into which Glasgow will be divided.

Island of Cumbrae Steamers.

*MR. LAMONT: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to notices published on June 23rd by the Glasgow and South Western Railway Company and by the Caledonian Steam Packet Company, that their steamers will cease, on and from July 2nd next, to call at Millport Pier or Keppel Pier, in the Island of Cumbrae; whether these steamers carry His Majesty's mails; if so, whether the Post Office has given any sanction to the withdrawal of the service; and what steps he proposes to take to obtain the delivery of the mails to Millport in the event of the threatened withdrawal of the steamers being carried out.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The steamers referred to are not under my control and no formal intimation of the alterations was sent to me. I understand that the steamers will call at a new landing place on the island from and to which the mails will be taken by horse conveyance. The alterations will have little effect on the postal service.

Education Bill.

MR. STAVELEY HILL (Staffordshire, Kingswinford): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if he will shortly lay upon the Table the Memorandum of enactments to be repealed in the schedule of the Education Bill.

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. LOUGH, Islington, W.): I hope the Explanatory Memorandum of the reasons for the repeals will be available in the course of next week. The repeals themselves are fully set out in the second schedule.

LORD BALCARRES: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education when he will place upon the Paper his suggested Amendments to Clause 6 of the Education Bill.

MR. LOUGH: I must refer the noble Lord to the reply given to an identical Question from the Member for Cambridge University, which was circulated with the Votes this morning.† I have nothing to add to that Answer.

LORD R. CECIL: When will the Amendments to Clause 2 be available?

MR. LOUGH: I cannot say.

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether, in the event of schools being transferred without rent, to which Clause 4 of the Education Bill applies, the local education authority or the owners will be liable for mortgages or other charges upon such schools.

MR. LOUGH: In the cases referred to in the Question, the liability in question will not be upon the local authority.

MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if he can state the number of children that are withdrawn from religious instruction in denominational schools, and the percentage that number bears to the children that are taught in those schools.

MR. LOUGH: I have no information on the subject.

MR. HICKS BEACH: Do not the county councils issue such a Return?

MR. LOUGH: We have no information on the point at the Board of Education.

The Department of Public Trustee.

MR. J. HENDERSON (Aberdeenshire, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether he has made any estimate of the number of official appointments throughout the country of assistants, deputies, and clerks, which will be necessary to establish the department of the public trustee; the total amount of the salaries of such officials; the cost of office accommodation and general expenses of the proposed department; and if he will lay such estimate upon the Table of the House.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.): No such estimate has been made, and it would be premature to make one. I would remind the hon. Member that the services of officials already holding office will be utilised as far as possible for the machinery of the Bill.

Illiterate Petitioners.

MR. A. L. STANLEY (Cheshire, Eddisbury): I beg to ask the Chairman of the Public Petitions Committee if he can state the proportion of illiterate signatures in petitions presented against the Education Bill.

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† See Col. 919.

*MR. H. J. WILSON (Yorkshire, W. R., Holmfirth): I cannot give the information, which could only be obtained after an exhaustive search.

Shrewsbury Municipal Charities.

MR. BILLSON (Staffordshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the hon. Member for East Bristol, as representing the Charity Commissioners, why the proposed scheme for administering the municipal charities of the borough of Shrewsbury has not yet been carried into effect.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): Numerous objections and suggestions received by the Commissioners up to the 12th May last upon the publication of the draft scheme have now been considered and the Order establishing the scheme will be made almost immediately.

Irish Convicts—Petitions for Release.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether petitions for the release of a prisoner are filed or reconsidered at stated intervals; and, if so, whether a petition recently dealt with in the case of James M'Cann, of county Longford, will be again taken into consideration by the law officers of the Crown.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool, Exchange): All memorials for the release of a prisoner are filed. The cases of all convicts undergoing long sentences are periodically submitted for consideration in accordance with the regulations. James M'Cann's sentence being one of three years penal servitude only there is no rule under which his case would be reconsidered. It is, of course, optional with the convict or any one on his behalf to forward a memorial at any time, and such memorial will be laid before the Lord-Lieutenant for his decision. It is not a matter with which the law officers of the Crown can properly interfere.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): By whom are the memorials considered—by the law officers of the Crown?

MR. CHERRY: No. They are considered by the Lord-Lieutenant himself.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Does not the Lord-Lieutenant act on legal advice?

MR. SPEAKER: Notice should be given of that Question.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: Was it not the Lords Justices who refused the prayer of the petition in this case?

MR. CHERRY was understood to say that in the absence of the Lord-Lieutenant for Ireland the Lords Justices might consider such matters, but the law officers of the Crown never intervened in such cases. He knew nothing of the case.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: It was by your direction the man was prosecuted.

MR. CHERRY: After a conviction a case passes entirely out of the domain of the law officers.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Does the Lord-Lieutenant personally consider these cases?

MR. SPEAKER: Notice had better be given of that.

Irish Magistrates.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether his attention has been called to the practice at present prevailing of magistrates adjudicating in cases in which they have a personal interest, and also in sanctioning as advocates their friends and relations to appear before them; and, in view of the tendency to corruption under these circumstances, will he deal with the matter by legislation or otherwise.

MR. CHERRY: I am not aware of the practice prevailing in Ireland of magistrates adjudicating in cases in which they have a personal interest. It is quite contrary to law that they should do so; and if the hon. Member is aware of any particular case in which a magistrate has so acted, he ought to bring the matter under the notice of the Lord Chancellor. As regards the second part of the Question, magistrates have no power to refuse to hear advocates, whether solicitors or barristers, who appear before them on the ground merely that they are either friends or relations of their own, and I fear it would be a very dangerous power to put into their hands. If in any case a magistrate uses undue means to procure the employment of a relative in a case pending before him, or shows partiality towards the litigant who so employs a friend or relation, the conduct of such magistrate should be brought to the attention of the Lord Chancellor, who will, I feel sure, if the charge is clearly established, deal with it with the utmost severity.

Sir Antony MacDonnell.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland does the position which Sir Antony MacDonnell occupied under the late Government still subsist, and will he state what precisely that gentleman's position is as regards salary, emoluments, duties, powers, and tenure of office.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): Sir Antony MacDonnell is still Under-Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. His salary and emoluments are stated in the Estimates for the Civil Service, Class II., page 200, for the present financial year. His duties and powers are in part prescribed by statute, and in part not so prescribed; and his tenure of office is the same as that of other permanent Civil servants.

MR. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): Is it part of his duty to appoint Land Sub-Commissioners?

MR. BRYCE: That does not arise out of the Question.

The Royal Canal.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland have the Board of Control of the Royal Canal yet succeeded in ascertaining what their powers and duties are; do the powers enable them to oblige the Midland Railway Company to compensate boatmen at present out of employment in consequence of that company's neglect; will the company be allowed to prolong this period of enforced idleness beyond the present month; and what explanation do the Board of Control give of the fact that although the canal is overgrown with weeds and bushes, the season most suitable for clearing it, and no traffic to interfere with that work, no such work is being done.

MR. BRYCE: The Irish Government have been in communication with the Board of Control of the Royal Canal, and it has been decided to be necessary to raise the number of the Board to its statutory complement of five. Steps to this end are under the consideration of the Lord-Lieutenent. The reply to the second inquiry of the Question is in the negative. It will not, I am informed, be necessary to keep the Spencer Dock closed to traffic after the end of the present month, as the work of repair will be completed by that time. I am informed by the Board of Control that the canal is not overgrown with weeds and bushes. Traffic is now proceeding on the canal, and the work of removing such weeds and bushes as exist in it is being carried out.

MR. GINNELL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware there are four gates across the towing path? His Answer is not correct.

MR. BRYCE: I believe my information is perfectly correct. We wish to make the canal available for traffic as soon as possible.

Judicial Land Commissioner.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is in a position to give the name of the gentleman whom it is now proposed to appoint as Judicial Land Commissioner; if not, will he give an assurance that it shall not be any one of the judges of the High Court or any other man who has been a political or class partisan; and will the appointment be made before the summer adjournment of Parliament.

MR. BRYCE: I am not aware of a vacancy, present or impending, in the office of Judicial Land Commissioner.

MR. GINNELL: Is not the right hon. Gentleman ashamed of the dishonest Answers he has read to-day?

*THE SPEAKER: That is a most improper Question. [Cries of "Withdraw."]

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I can assure the right hon. Gentleman that some of the Irish Members at any rate do not sympathise with this attack upon him.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN (Cork): I can assure the right hon. Gentleman that three-fourths of the Irish Members do not sympathise with it.

American Bacon Imports.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received any reports on the increased and increasing quantity of American bacon imported into Ireland, and its quality; is there any inspection of this bacon on its importation; has any report been received by the Irish Government connecting the increase of tuberculosis with the consumption of American bacon; and has he any official information showing that numbers of pigs affected with tubercular disease are slaughtered in America, and the flesh sent to the United Kingdom as bacon.

MR. BRYCE: The information at the disposal of the Department of Agriculture shows that there was a considerable increase in the quantity of bacon imported into Ireland in 1905 as compared with 1904. Most of this bacon is American, and is cheaper than, and inferior in quality to, the bacon exported from Ireland. There is no inspection, as far as the Department are aware, of American bacon on importation. Under the Public Health Acts any sanitary officer has power to inspect any meat for sale, intended for the food of man, and to seize the same if it appears to him to be unfit for human food. The Department have received no report connecting the increase of tuberculosis with the consumption of American bacon; nor have they any information in regard to the statement contained in the last part of the Question.

Morley Estate, County Cavan.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that a tenant on the Morley Estate, county Cavan, named John Nixon, had his rent reduced by Lord Morley in 1882 from £46 a year to £34 10s., and paid at the reduced rent down to the sale of the estate by Lord Morley in 1898 to a syndicate; that the syndicate now claim rent at the rate of £46, and have compelled Nixon to pay up arrears at that rate, and are at present proceeding against him for rent at £46; that negotiations for the sale of the estate to the Estates Commissioners are pending; will the Estates Commissioners decline to purchase unless Nixon and other tenants are fairly dealt with; and has Nixon's rent been returned as a £46 rent in the rental furnished to the Commissioners, and are they aware that £34 10s. was the rent in fact paid for many years.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that the townland in which John Nixon's holding is situate is not included in the Crookenden and Casey (late Morley) Estate, in respect of which proceedings for sale have been instituted before them. The Commissioners are not aware of the facts stated in the Question, and have no power to intervene in disputes between landlord and tenant as to rent. They will, however, enquire into the circumstances under which the townland in question has been excluded from the sale of the estate.

Sligo and Leitrim Evicted Tenants.

MR. P. A. MCHUGH (Sligo, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many applications have been received by the Estates Commissioners from evicted tenants in the counties of Sligo and Leitrim from the 1st November, 1903, to the present time; and how many of these cases have been dealt with by the Commissioners.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have received 154 applications for reinstatement in county Leitrim, and ninety-two for reinstatement in county Sligo, and they have received information that reinstatement has been effected in twenty-four of the cases in county Leitrim and in one case in county Sligo. The Commissioners are having inquiries made into the cases of applicants from these counties as rapidly as possible.

Phibbs' Estate, Tubbercurry.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lietenant of Ireland, whether the Phibbs' estate, situated at Tubbercurry, county Sligo, and at present administered in the Land Judge's Court, has recently been offered for sale to the Irish Land Commission; and, if so, whether that portion of the estate situate in the town of Tubbercurry is included in such offer.

I beg also to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he is aware that an attempt was made some time ago to sell that portion of the Phibbs' Estate, situate in the town of Tubbercurry, county Sligo, and at present in the Land Judge's Court, to a middleman named Dr. Brennan, of Charlestown, county Mayo, without any notice having been given to the tenants, who were and are willing to pay a liberal price for their houses; and whether, in case this purchase by Dr. Brennan has not taken place, he will communicate with the Land Judge and the Estates Commissioners with the view of ensuring that the tenants shall have due notice of any sale of the estate to be proposed hereafter, in order that they may have an opportunity of purchasing their town holdings.

MR. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners have, with a view to purchase, issued a request under Section 7 in regard to part of the estate of R. H. Phibbs in the neighbourhood of Tubbercurry; but the town is not included in their proposed purchase, which relates to agricultural property only. The estate generally is for sale in the Land Judge's Court, and the Registrar of that Court informs me that Dr. Brennan, one of the tenants, has made a proposal to purchase for cash certain town plots in Tubbercurry, and this proposal will be brought before the learned Judge for his consideration when the necessary documents have been prepared. If the immediate tenants desire to have notice of the proceedings, they should enter an appearance in the case, when they would have an opportunity of submitting their views to the Court.

MR. O'DOWD: Do I understand that if the tenants put forward a scheme it will be favourably considered?

MR. BRYCE: I said they should have notice if they desired to do so.

Belfast Police Inquiry.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what were the facts and circumstances which, in his opinion, rendered the recent inquiry into the Belfast police system necessary; what has been the cost of that inquiry up to date; and did the Lord Mayor or High Sheriff of Belfast, the Commissioner of Police in Belfast, or any leading or representative person in or connected with that city ask for this inquiry.

MR. BRYCE: The Irish Government were led by several considerations, which could not be adequately set forth within the limits of an Answer, to the conclusion that a Commission of Inquiry into the organisation, discipline, and working of the Constabulary in Belfast was desirable. The circumstances which gave rise to the appointment of the Commission will best be shown by the report of the Commission when it appears. The cost of the inquiry has not yet been ascertained. Neither the Lord Mayor nor High Sheriff of Belfast asked for the inquiry.

Irish Labourers' Act Returns.

MR. FLAVIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland when the Returns as to the working of the Labourers' Act will be circulated, as hon. Members from Ireland are anxious to have them as soon as possible.

MR. BRYCE: The distribution of these Returns is not a matter for which I am responsible. I have, however, conveyed the hon. Member's wishes to the proper quarter, and am informed that the Returns will be ready for distribution on Monday next.

Bi-lingual Teaching.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): In view of the adoption of the new system for the remuneration of teachers can the Chief Secretary say what is proposed with regard to bi-lingual schools?

MR. BRYCE: A special grant of 4s. per scholar in average attendance will be made to schools taking the bi-lingual programme. The bi-lingual programme may be adopted in those cases only where the home language of the majority of the scholars is Irish.

Loans for Workmen's Houses in Ireland

MR. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the importance of encouraging urban councils in Ireland to proceed with the building of workmen's houses, he will immediately authorise the granting of Irish loans for this purpose, at the lowest possible rate consistent with involving no loss to the Treasury; whether, on this basis, the present state of the market would permit him to grant loans at 3 per cent. interest per annum; and whether he will also agree to extend the period for repayment to sixty-eight years, being the terms granted in the Irish Land Act, 1903.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): The Commissioners of Public Works are empowered to make loans to urban district councils in Ireland under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts. The rates of interest chargeable on such loans are the same as apply to all loans to local authorities out of the Local Loans Fund. These rates are fixed by the Treasury under statutory direction, so as to secure the solvency of the Local Loans Fund. It would not be possible, in the present state of the market, to reduce the rate of interest to 3 per cent. without loss to the Fund. The statutory maximum period for repayment of the loans is fifty years.

Agricultural Holdings Consolidation Bill.

MR. BECK (Cambridgeshire, Wisbech): I beg to ask the Prime Minister when he proposes to give opportunities for the further progress of the Agricultural Holdings Consolidation Bill.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): I am afraid that I cannot say at the moment what opportunities will be given. The Agricultural Holdings Consolidation Bill and the Land Tenure Bill are to some extent bound up together, but I am not without hopes that a satisfactory arrangement may be made for the passage of both measures.

Sea Erosion.

*MR. BECKETT (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby): I beg to ask the Prime Minister when he will announce the names of the Royal Commission which will inquire into the reclamation of foreshores and sea erosion.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The announcement will be made in a very few days.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): Will Ireland be represented on the Commission?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am not sure; I will inquire.

Central Unemployed Committee.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether his attention has been called to the statement of the chairman of the Central Unemployed Committee for London that at the present moment they are living from hand to mouth, and some of their best attempts are only financially secure till September, and to his appeal to Parliament to take such action that before the adjournment in August they may be able to lay the foundation of their next winter's work; and whether, in view of these facts, he will reconsider his decision that it would be impracticable to legislate on the subject before the summer adjournment of the House, or, in the alternative, will take such other steps as may be necessary to carry the Committee over the period which must intervene before legislation can take effect.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Yes, Sir, I am aware of the statement of the Chairman of the Central Unemployed Committee for London to which my hon. friend calls my attention. My right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board will make a full statement of the intentions of His Majesty's Government on July 19th, when the Vote for the Local Government Board is taken.

Education Bill—Personnel of Commission.

MR. HICKS-BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury): I beg to ask the Prime

Minister when the *personnel* of the Commission to be appointed under the Education Bill will be announced.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I hope to make the announcement in the course of a few days. I cannot state the names to-day.

MR. HICKS-BEACH: Will it be before Clauses 8 and 9 are reached?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Oh, yes.

THE CLOSURING OF THE EDUCATION BILL.

MR. COX (Preston) asked the Prime Minister whether his attention has been called to the fact that the greater part of Clause 4 of the Education Bill, containing matter of immense public importance, was last night passed through Committee, under the operation of the guillotine, without any opportunity for discussion, and whether he would consider the desirability of dropping a large number of the remaining clauses of the Bill, so as to abbreviate the proceedings in Committee in order to allow time for the adequate discussion of Clause 4 on Report.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am afraid we cannot adopt that course. It does not commend itself to me as being practicable.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

SIR WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Bills of Exchange Act (1882) Amendment Bill: Mr. John Philipps; and had appointed in substitution Mr. Wedgwood Benn. Report to lie upon the Table.

OPEN SPACES BILL.

Reported from the Standing Committee on Law, etc., with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 225.] Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 225.]

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be taken into consideration upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 281.]

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

Worcester Election, That they request that this House will be pleased to communicate to their Lordships copies of the minutes of the evidence taken at the trial of the Worcester Election Petition.

Printed copy to be communicated.

WORCESTER ELECTION.

That they acquaint this House that they agree to the Address of this House to be presented to His Majesty respecting the Election and Return for the City of Worcester, and that they have filled up the blank with "Lords Spiritual and Temporal and."

POST OFFICE SITES BILL.

Reported from the Select Committee. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 226.]

Bill, as amended, re-committed to a Committee of the whole House for Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 284.]

NEW BILLS.

INTESTATES ESTATES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to the share of Intestate Husband's Estate falling to the widow," presented by Mr. Crombie; supported by Sir Henry Craik, Mr. Dundas White, Mr. Younger, and Mr. Eugene Wason; to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed. [Bill 282.]

INTESTATES (MOTHERS) MOVEABLE SUCCESSION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to the share of an Intestate's Estate falling to the Mother," presented by Mr. Crombie; supported by Sir Henry Craik, Mr. Dundas White, Mr. Younger, and Mr. Eugene Wason; to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed. [Bill 283.]

SUPPLY [14TH ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1906–7.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £110,146, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Agriculture and other Industries and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and of the services administered by the Department, including sundry Grands in Aid."

MR. CONOR O'KELLY (Mayo, N.) said that the Vote which was now before the Committee raised what he thought he could safely describe as one of the most important and urgent questions with which Parliament, in its Irish relations, could deal. This question had been before the House for many years and in many forms. It had been discussed in the Speeches from the Throne, on the Estimates, on Resolutions, and by way of Bills, whilst the attention of many Governments had been forced to it as the fountain and origin of most of their embarrassments and difficulties in the worst of Irish administration. And he ventured to think that the present Irish Secretary would admit that he would be saved many anxious hours at the Irish Office, that his task in Ireland would be shorn of most of its difficulty, if there were no Connaught problem with which to deal. This problem of the West was the Irish land question in its most tense and aggravated form, and until a really serious and courageous attempt was made to find a solution no Irish Secretary could answer for peace and tranquility in Ireland. Connaught had been in the past the storm centre of many Irish agitations; it was to that province that almost all measures of reform for Ireland, notably the Land Act of 1903, traced their origin. It was the people of the West, by their sacrifices and labours, that won that measure, that compelled the late Government to open anew the whole question of Irish land with a view to a settlement that would be lasting, and that would relieve the country of all those evils in which agrarian unrest was so abundantly prolific. It was the urgent need of putting an end to the unhappy conditions of life in Connaught that was urged as the chief reason why the Bill of 1903 should pass, and it was the most valuable recommendation of that measure to the support of all Parties at the time. Indeed, it was very questionable if that Bill would not have had a different fate if it had been then known that it would do but little to mitigate, let alone to remove, the burdens that pressed upon the people of the West. It was the cry of the people of the West that evoked the response of the Act of 1903, but in truth it must be now said that a great advance upon that measure must be made if one of the darkest blots on the social life of 1,000,000 of the population was to be removed, and if the people of this country were to put an end to conditions which remained an abiding reproach to their administration in Ireland. Connaught was responsible for the Act of 1903, but Connuaght, that deserved most, had derived least from it. As a remedy for congestion the Act of 1903 was a failure. When it passed this House the people were led to believe that it covered all the difficulties of the question, and that, through its operations, the evils of congestion would speedily disappear. Not unnaturally the hopes of the people ran high. The Act had been in operation for a considerable time, and those hopes had not been fulfilled, nor could they see any evidence of any immediate prospect of their being so; the expectations which the Act aroused had not been realised, and to-day in every county in Ireland where this question was acute there was profound and widespread disappointment, and the people asked Parliament again to intervene. Who or what was responsible for the breakdown of the Act in the congested counties? The shortcomings of the Act, its imperfections, made it all too easy for the Irish landlords, where they chose, to obstruct and to wreck its working. Some of them had refused to sell at all either tenanted or untenanted land; some of them had agreed to sell only the occupied land, that was those areas of sterile soil in which were included what the Member for Dover, perhaps not in the most felicitous language, described as the "agricultural slums" of Connaught, reserving the untenanted portions without which sales in the congested areas would be worse than useless; and some of them were demanding terms so ridiculously extravagant as to make purchase impossible. Others had been at pains to discover means by which when they did decide to sell the result would not have the most infinitesimal effect on the problem of congestion, and he should like particularly to direct the special attention of the Chief Secretary to this latest development of landlord policy in Connaught. It would give the Committee some idea of the kind of co-operation that was to be expected from some Irish landlords in making the Act a measure of relief to the small cottiers in the congested counties. These landlords, instead of selling their property as a whole to the Congested Districts Board—the occupied portions, the congested holdings, and the grass ranches—for improvement purposes, for enlarging and amalgamating old holdings and making them economic, and for creating new ones, as Parliament intended, proposed to proceed quite differently. They proposed to divide the grass lands into so many separate new holdings, and then to sell them by auction to the highest bidders. In this way ten or twelve years purchase, in the shape of fines, would be secured, tenancies would be created, and then the landlord would sell under the Act of 1903 at twenty-three or twenty-four years purchase, an additional three or four years purchase being added from the bonuses available when the transaction was completed. In all, this brilliant device would result to the landlord in thirty-five or forty years purchase for his property. But one might ask where would the small tenants on the congested parts of the property come in under this arrangement? They could not afford to pay fines—it was their poverty that led Parliament to pass the Act of 1903, they were the men it was intended to reach—and the consequence would be that the land would pass into the hands of men who could afford to pay fines; but it was not for those men that the Act of 1903 was passed through this House. This specious device of still further landlord exaction was attempted in Mayo, but it did not succeed. Public opinion would not stand it, and for a time, at any rate, the project had been abandoned. But, of course, no one could tell when it might be revived. It was bad enough that ten or twelve years purchase should be added to prices already extravagantly high—time would show whether these prices would not have ruinous results—but had this new plan of disposing of the grass lands succeeded, then congestion in the West would have remained with them for all time. For what would have inevitably happened was this. The landlords whose method of sale brought thirty-five or forty years purchase would soon find hosts of imitators, and auction would speedily follow auction on every estate in Connaught. The land needed to rescue the submerged thousands of the congested areas would pass into the hands of men for whom it was not intended, over 1,000,000 acres in the province would be filched from the people, and the Congested Districts Board, unable to stir a hand or move a foot whilst this process of defeating the intentions of Parliament was going on, might as well pull down its blinds and put up its shutters, for the days of its usefulness would be at an end. When the Act of 1903 was in Committee an Amendment was moved from the Nationalist benches that would have met this particular kind of case, but, like all other Amendments dealing with congestion, the Pre-emption Amendment had to be withdrawn after they had gone through the solemn farce of a discussion that no one took seriously and nobody believed to be real. There was only one remedy for this state of things. That remedy had been urged over and over again by the Irish Party, and by everyone who knew anything about the requirements of the West. The Congested Districts Board must be given compulsory powers. Had Parliament not sufficient justification for that step in the attitude of the Irish land lords during the past few years; and he asked, was it worthy of Parliament to give its adhesion to a great policy and to shrink from adopting the means by which alone it could be carried out? Although they were moving a reduction of the Vote for the Congested Districts Board it must not be inferred that the Irish representatives were attaching all the blame for the present situation to that body. Nothing of the kind. Whilst many things were done by the Board to which they took the strongest possible exception, it would be unjust to hold them accountable for what might be described as the deadlock that had overtaken the work of putting the people on the land. They held that defects in legislation rather than in administration were accountable for the failure of the Land Act in the West. They recognised as much as anyone in this House the sympathy and zeal which the Board brought to their labours, and they were not less sensible of the splendid work done by some of their leading officials. But they held that, despite the best intentions, which they freely acknowledged, far greater power than was now possessed by the Board must be given to them if they were to accomplish the task for which they were appointed. The members of the Board had for many years shared this view, and he was sure it was unnecessary to remind the Chief Secretary of the resolution passed by the Board on this subject a few years ago. He was aware that the Board demanded compulsion, although the great majority of the members of that body were, he believed, strongly opposed to compulsion, except in the congested counties, where they were convinced it was the only solution of the existing difficulty. And he might remind the Chief Secretary that the right hon. Gentleman the present Leader of the Opposition, when the Act establishing the Board was before this House many years ago, made it clear that if the neccessity for compulsion was proved he would not be unwilling to grant it. According to the Board, the necessity for compulsion had been conclusively proved by the facts of their own experience, and what better authority on the subject could there be? If the Leader of the Opposition, in certain circumstances in the special case of the West, would approve this principle, he could not, for the life of him, see what great objection the Chief Secretary could have to it, especially when they remembered that the Party to which he belonged voted not long ago in favour of applying compulsion not merely in the exceptional case of Connaught, but to the four provinces in Ireland. The voluntary principle had had a fair chance, and it had failed. As the landlords could not be relied upon to facilitate the work of the Board—they did not appear to be greatly moved by the daily thinning of the population of Ireland that was going on—and as this House had decided that congestion, with all its evil consequences, must be removed, there was only one course open to the Government which offered any hope of success, and that was the adoption of the compulsory principle. That was their first demand. He now passed from that question to another of very great importance. They asked that all the Connaught counties should be scheduled as congested. The Irish Party had always insisted, and they now insisted, that the counties should be scheduled as a whole, and he did not think there would be very much difficulty in convincing the Committee of the soundness and the reasonableness of their view. It seemed an extraordinary thing that the system of scheduling districts as congested, which everyone admitted to be absurd and misleading as a test of congestion, should have survived the many Acts passed in this House since the Congested Districts Board was first established. He was, of course, aware of a slight modification of one of the Clauses of the Act of 1901, but that really did not touch the question. In the early days of the Board, when its work was largely tentative and experimental, when it was necessary to proceed with caution, and when the Board was not the really important body it had since become, it really did not much matter what plan of scheduling was adopted—any rough and ready classification of areas sufficed; but that stage had long since passed, and to-day, when the Board, with its increased income and its large credit, was able and was expected to carry out transactions on a really large scale, it ought not to be hampered by the operation of a rule that confined its work within narrow and arbitrarily selected areas. It should be free to apply itself to congestion wherever it existed, but this it could do until the present definition was abolished. A district electoral division did not answer to the prescribed definition of a congested area unless the valuation per head of the population was under 30s. In the county of Mayo almost every single electoral division would come under the 30s. limit if the valuation was determined on the actual holdings of the people, a course that would seem fair and reasonable, but the Board must add the valuation of the great grazing ranches of thousands of acres with a population of half a dozen herds, with the result that the per head valuation was artificially raised far above the 30s. standard. The system excluded fifty electoral districts, nearly half of the total number, in the county of Mayo, and to his own knowledge they were all as deplorably congested as—many of them more congested than—the areas that were scheduled. Let him give one instance to show how the system worked. In the Claremorris Union there were nineteen electoral divisions, of which eight were unscheduled. In one of these electoral divisions, Crossboyne, there were 3,437 acres, of which 2,000 acres were grazing land with a population of, say, a dozen herds. The balance, 1,400 acres, represented small holdings with a population of 675 people. The grazing valuation was £1,189, and the occupying valuation £884. The per head valuation including the grazing land worked out at £3 17s.; excluding the grazing land it dropped to £1 6s., well under the figure at which it would be entitled to be scheduled. He should like if some one would explain why it was not on the valuation of the actual holdings of the people that the calculation was made. But to show how utterly fallacious this system was as a test of the conditions of the people in the electoral division of Crossboyne, where the £3 17s. per head valuation would suggest some degree of prosperity, out of 137 holdings no fewer than 110 were congested and uneconomic, and in the eight unscheduled divisions of the Claremorris Union, no less than 1,114 holdings were uneconomic. In Ballina 42 per cent. of all the occupiers were excluded, in Castlebar 53 per cent., in Killala 70 per cent., and in Ballinrobe 77 per cent. As he did not desire to weary the Committee with these figures he would have done with them when he said that in the county of Mayo alone nearly half of the electoral divisions of the county, with 9,000 small occupiers representing roughly 45,000 people, were excluded by a provision for which no one could advance a serious excuse. There was no use in saying that because rescheduling would involve a recasting of the financial basis of former measures the work should not be done. Why should this unjust discrimination between the same class of small occupiers continue? Let him point out to the Committee the injustice that resulted from it. Under the Act of 1901 the Board could purchase land in unscheduled districts, but only for the benefit of the people in the scheduled districts. He had in his mind the case of a large grazing tract purchased by the Board in a non-scheduled district. Although not scheduled for a similar cause to that which he had just stated, it contained many small and uneconomic holdings. The local people not unnaturally thought that this land, which was practically at their doors, would be used to increase their small holdings. But the land was to be used by the Board for migration schemes and they would be shut out. When the land was thus disposed of they would find their congestion stereotyped, and all hope of improvement cut off. In this way the Board, while curing congestion on one property, were making it chronic on another. While this method of procedure was not businesslike or just it had also its serious side. Could it be expected that the old tenants would welcome the newcomers with open arms? No; smarting under a sense of wrong, they keenly resented their presence, and good relations between them were scarcely possible; indeed, if public opinion were stirred upon the subject these migration schemes would not be possible, the Board would not be able to carry them out. But, after all, these difficulties could be got over. Let the counties be scheduled as a whole, leaving the Board free to deal with congestion whenever it found it; let the Board get power to acquire all the land it needed and these troubles would be avoided, for there would be ample to meet the requirements of all. There were many other matters he would like to deal with, but as he had already rather heavily taxed the patience of the Committee he would let them pass. When they reflected on the obstacles that obstructed the work of curing congestion, the attitude of the landlords, their extravagant demands, their objection to parting with untenanted land in some cases, and in other cases their selling it by public auction or private treaty; when they considered the defective character of the legislation under which the Board was working, its limited powers, its general inequipment for the great task imposed upon it, the heartbreaking delays that attended its operations, the wrong lines upon which many of its schemes were proceeding, thus daily adding to the difficulties of an ultimate solution; when they remembered the thousands of occupiers excluded from any share in the results of it labours—he thought the time had come for a serious and exhaustive survey of the whole Western problem and a careful review of the Acts that related to it. In order that this might be done, they had a proposal to make to the Government; but let him say most emphatically that if they thought that this proposal would mean delaying legislation they would not dream for one moment of making it. When this proposal was first made, a few months ago, they knew then that there would be no legislation on the question this year, and it appeared to them that the interval between now and next session could not be better occupied than in a thorough inquiry into every phase and difficulty of this problem. So that when fresh legislation was attempted, as no doubt it would be next year, it would represent a clear understanding of what was required for a settlement that, unlike former "settlements," would be final. No doubt it might not be a popular thing to suggest a Royal Commission to inquire into an Irish question. Royal Commissions had a bad reputation in Ireland; they were regarded as an expedient to which all Governments had recourse for escaping difficulties and shelving questions. If they thought that that would be the result in this case, it was not likely that they would demand an inquiry. But this inquiry could not postpone any legislation this year, for, as they all knew before this proposal for a Commission was made, there was to be none. This inquiry could not prevent legislation next session because a Commission, if appointed, ought to have finished its task and issued its Report before Parliament met next year. Therefore, whatever else might be said of the proposal, it did not lie in the mouth of anyone to say that it could be used as an excuse for postponing legislation. The inquiry they asked for, proceeding on the lines of the Scottish Royal Commission on the Highlands and Islands, should not take more than four or five months. The Scottish Commissioners completed their task in five months, although the country in which they conducted their local inquiries had far less facilities for travelling than the province of Connaught and the congested counties outside that province. If such a Commission as they suggested got to work at once he saw no reason why its inquiries should not be concluded and its Report issued by the end of the year. This inquiry had been asked for by the representative bodies of the West; the Galway and Mayo County Councils had asked for it; so had all the district councils of the county of Mayo, and, he believed, of the county of Sligo; it had been asked for by executives and branches of the League throughout the province, and resolutions in its favour had been passed at many public demonstrations in Connaught during the last few months. They wanted this inquiry as a preliminary to serious legislation; they wanted it so that they might have a chance of proving that past Acts of Parliament really trifled with this great question; and that the case for a courageous and comprehensive measure might be made. When new legislation came they wanted it to err rather on the side of boldness of treatment than on the side of timidity of treatment, which had been the main defect of all Irish land legislation in the past. They wanted legislation that would oppose migration to emigration, that would at last impose some check on the frightful exodus of their people—the flower of the youth of their country—that was going on under their eyes, by throwing open the boundless plains of Connaught to re-settlement. They wanted it as a measure of social reconstruction in a ravaged province, a province that, after all, was not poor, that was capable of great things if only it got a chance. And in order that such legislation might be passed they asked the Committee by full and serious inquiry to familiarise themselves with every aspect of social life comprehended in the problem of the West. The right hon. Gentleman could not be unmoved by the sad spectacle of a land that might easily be prosperous becoming a derelict among the nations, abandoned by its own; and no higher and worthier task could engage his labours than that of stopping this tragic wasting of an already exhausted nation whilst there was yet time. He begged to move the reduction of the Vote by £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £110,046, be granted for the said Service.—(*Mr. Conor O'Kelly.*)

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.) said that, in supporting the Motion of his hon. friend, he would not detain the Committee for more than a few minutes. Indeed, it was unnecessary that he should do so, for no words of his could add to the force of the case which had been presented to the Committee. But representing as he did a Western constituency, he felt that perhaps he might be deemed wanting in his duty if he did not intervene with a few remarks. The question of congestion in the West and elsewhere concerned every Irish Member. More especially, however, did it concern the Members representing constituencies in Connaught, for in that province the evil effects of congestion were felt more keenly than elsewhere. There it constituted the kernel of what was known as the Western problem, on the speedy solution of which depended the peace, the prosperity, and the contentment of a whole province. It was impossible to deal with this question fully unless they dealt with the working of recent Land Purchase Acts, and on the effects which these Acts might have on the economic conditions prevailing in Connaught. This he did not propose to do at any length. But he would like to say, in passing, what he thought nobody who knew anything of this problem would deny, that it was this question of congestion which was mainly responsible for the passing of the Land Act of 1903—an Act which, no matter how it might have worked elsewhere, had been a dead failure in the West of Ireland. It could never be too often insisted that the land question in Connaught was entirely different from the land question outside it, and must have a special remedy. It could hardly be denied that the clauses of the Act of 1903 dealing with congestion had become inoperative and that new methods must be found. The defects of these clauses had been made abundantly plain, and until they were remedied all hope of serious dealing with the West disappeared. What was the remedy that would put beyond all doubt and conjecture the ending of congestion? It was, and it must be, compulsion. The landlord who let vast grazing tracts on the eleven months system could not be induced to give them up, and if they did not devise some scheme by which he would be compelled to give them up on being paid a liberal compensation, how could land be secured for the landless people? Let him draw a picture of what congestion really was and what the circumstances obtaining in Connaught were. In that province there were nearly a million of acres of grassland mostly held by non-residential graziers—some of the finest land to be found anywhere—whilst the masses of the people were grouped together on uneconomic patches of bogland reclaimed from its original state by the labours of their fathers. What was the effect of this state of things on the commercial, industrial, and agricultural interests of the West? Their towns were decaying because bullocks and sheep required no clothing. Neither did they require groceries. One herd with his dog was sufficient to take care of a ranche of 1,000 acres, which, divided into moderately-sized farms, would furnish employment for forty labourers and their families. They in the West had been taunted with not having built more labourers cottages. Their critics seemed to forget that they had no labourers. The farmer who would go in for cultivation was seriously handicapped because in most of the districts of Connaught there was no set agricultural labouring community such as there was to be found in the other provinces. The men on whom the farmers must rely for labour were the small farmers and cottars, and these as a rule went as migrating labourers to England and Scotland, whilst their sons and daughters, the bone and sinew of the land, emigrated, to the loss of Ireland, and if he were an Imperialist he would say to the loss of the British Empire as well. Goldsmith, the great Irish poet, a century and a half ago, wrote these lines—

> "Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey
> Where wealth accumulates and men decay.
> Princes and lords may flourish and may fade,
> A breath can make them as a breath has made;
> But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
> When once destroyed, can never be supplied."

Well might he wail over the havoc wrought to his country by heartless landlordism, ruthless eviction, and British misgovernment. In Connaught they had 18,193 farms valued at £5 and under, whilst they had 12,000 migratory labourers who owned no land. Even in his own county of Sligo—and it was by no means the most congested county in Connaught—over 25 per cent. of the tenanted holdings were valued at £4 or under. In his own constituency of South Sligo he would be safe in saying that at least 40 per cent. of these holdings were valued at £4 or under. In two unscheduled divisions in the Union of Boyle, he found the gross poor law valuation to be £7,414, whilst the value of grass lands in these divisions amounted to £2,523 more than one-third of the whole. This was typical of the state of affairs in a county by no means the most congested. Connaught had been brought to this position by the confiscations, persecutions, and evictions of the past. Their population had gone down by one-half during the past half century. They wanted to save the remnant of their population. They wanted the land for the people. In the beginning of this, the twentieth century, they came once more to this House, the majority of whose Members represented, he was glad to say, the enlightened democratic thought of Great Britain, to plead the cause of fair play for the congested districts in Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary had introduced a Bill which would, he felt convinced, settle the question of the agricultural labourers in Ireland. He congratulated him most heartily on the courage he had displayed in introducing that Bill, which it was to be hoped would settle the question once and for all. Might he be permitted to hope that the right hon. Gentleman would go forward in the path of reform, and push onward a measure which would settle for ever the agrarian problem in the West—a measure which would be the means of creating a new set of peasant proprietors to replace the herds who now roamed over the fertile hills and valleys of Connaught—a measure which would be the means of creating an agricultural labouring community for Connaught, and a measure which would be the means of handing down to posterity, amid the prayers of the Irish people, the name of the right hon. Gentleman.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.) said it was due to the condition of things in the congested districts of Ireland that the land agitation was started which had paved the way to the abolition of landlordism. The so-called farmer in a congested district was in a far worse condition than any other person in Ireland, because his holding, a mere patch of land, was generally of the worst character, and could not possibly support the burdens which were placed upon him. He therefore generally became a migatory labourer in England and in Scotland, and in the intervals between his migration devoted his time to reclaiming his holding. Yet up to the present little had been done to remedy the conditions of these farmers. A Board, it was true, had been established for that purpose, but at the rate at which the Congested Districts Board was dividing up the grazing lands among the farmers of the congested districts he was afraid nobody would be left to take the land when it came to hand. Leaving out of consideration the question of compulsory purchase, the only remedy he could see for this state of things was to put upon the Board men who were conversant with the conditions of the congested districts. Many serious allegations had been made in his constituency that instead of trying to relieve congestion the Congested Districts Board were acting the part of a large emigration agent. He had asked for and obtained a Return of the land purchased and sold by the Congested Districts Board in the county of Mayo during the ten years ended March 31st, 1906. He found that nearly 2,000 acres had been in the hands of the Congested Districts Board for six, seven, and eight years for grazing purposes. It was said that the tenants had refused to buy land, but if business men had been on the Board they would have themselves made inquiries into the reason of this refusal instead of leaving it to officials. When he was in Ireland at Easter he saw lots of young fellows at the railway station starting for America, and if the Congested Districts Board put agents at the railway stations they would find any number of young men who would willingly take up this land. Out of over 270,000 acres purchased by the Board only about a half had been sold to tenants, and of the half that had not been sold over 60,000 acres had not been vested in the Board. He wanted to know the meaning of the words "not vested." Was it for the want of proving title ? If so, surely there should be some limit. If the landlord did not prove his title within three or six months the law should step in and take the right out of the landlord's hands. He found that amongst the holdings that had been kept in the hands of the Board for seven years were three estates in the parish of Newport in the Westport Union—he referred to portions of the O'Donel, the Stoney, and the Jones Estates, and the reply that he received to a Question the other day was that their lands were being held over until the Board could buy the fee simple of the O'Donel Estate at Newport. In the case of three townlands with fifty families in all, the average rent per family was £2 2s., some being as low as 10s. In fact, there were over 600 agricultural tenants in the parish of Newport the valuation of which did not average £3 a tenant, and yet there were 30,000 acres of grass lands in the same parish owned by about fifteen persons. He had been trying as long as he had been a Member of this House to get the Congested Districts Board to buy this land, but owing to the fact that they had no compulsory purchase powers the landlords would not sell. It was the duty of the members of the Board themselves to inspect estates, and also to see the young men who were to be put upon the holdings. On May 3rd he asked a Question as to whether any members of the Board ever inspected estates that were about to be purchased, and whether they ever saw the intending occupiers with a view to their fitness for those holdings. The reply he got was that it was not the practice of the Board to interview intending occupiers of new holdings. † That reminded him of the story about Jay Gould, the famous New York millionaire, who, it was said, by touching a button could control the whole of the American railways. It seemed that the Congested Districts Board thought they could, by a similar method, tell who was fit and who was unfit for a new holding, and whether an estate was worth purchasing or not, and so forth. One of the chief causes, excluding the lack of compulsory purchase powers, of the non-successful working of the Congested Districts Board was that of inefficiency. He appealed to the Chief Secretary to insist that Judge Ross should sell out the O'Donel Estate. It was said in the Newport parish that the Congested Districts Board had bought out a lot of small tenants at such exorbitant prices that they had been tempted to go to America. He had a list of at least twenty families who had been bought out since the Board came into possession of the land. As this was a serious statement to make against the Board's officials, he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would grant a sworn inquiry into the charge that the Board, instead of endeavouring to keep the people at home by dividing the land amongst them, induced them to go to America by giving extravagant prices for their holdings. He wanted to know what had become of these little holdings that had been bought out. Would the right hon. Gentleman make a serious and honest attempt to find out the cause of the delay in the sale by Judge Ross of the O'Donel Estate, and having found out the cause, would he apply a speedy and effective remedy ? Would the right hon. Gentleman also appoint practical men on the Board, men who understood the problem of congestion, namely, those from congested district committees.

Dr. Ambrose.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 702-3.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.) supported the suggestion of appointing a Royal Commission to inquire into the failure of the Congested Districts Board to deal with the question as it affected the West of Ireland. When the Land Act of 1903 was passing through Parliament it was admitted by all Parties that a settlement of the Irish land question was not possible unless the problem of Western Ireland was settled. The real difficulty of the whole question lay in that portion of the country, and, as far as a settlement there was concerned, the Act had proved a failure. Their wish now was to put on record the reason of that failure. When the Act was passing through the House of Commons there were two Amendments proposed from the Irish Benches; one was that compulsion should be applied in respect of all the untenanted land and congested properties; failing that, it was proposed that preemption should be given in respect of any untenanted land coming into the market. The Chief Secretary said that neither Amendment was necessary, as the inducements contained in the Bill were more than sufficient to bring all the land that was necessary into the market. But those inducements had not proved sufficient, and there existed throughout Connaught a regular conspiracy amongst the landlords and graziers either to prevent the land from coming into the market or to raise the price to such an extent as to make a settlement at the price almost as bad as the present state of affairs. They did not find fault with the Congested Districts Board, which so far as it was doing any work at all was doing it well. What he complained of was that the Board did not do sufficient work. It bought and sold estates exactly as he liked to see it done, but he wished the Board to be placed in a position to purchase all the untenanted land throughout the province. They wanted this work expedited, or else there was no hope for the people. He had heard the Chief Secretary declare how greatly affected he was in passing through a railway station in County Roscommon where he witnessed one of those scenes where friend was parting from friend for ever upon departing for America. That kind of thing was going on as much as and probably more to-day than it was in those days. In the county which he represented, the population had been reduced from 300,000 to 100,000, and yet in that county there were 100,000 acres of untenanted land, enough to provide a good living for more than half the whole population that existed there sixty years ago. Instead of having 100,000 acres with nothing but beasts roaming over it, there ought to be cutlivating that land the people who were now ekeing out a most miserable existence in the bogs. It was from some of these estates that the agrarian trouble in Ireland arose. Hon. Members had heard of the De Freyne Estate. That estate had now been purchased by the Congested Districts Board, but owing to the slow operation of the law the tenants had received very little benefit from it. He believed the desire of the Board was to hurry on the work, but all these delays about title and other things could easily be remedied by an alteration in the law. The Board were now the representatives of Lord De Freyne, and they were acting in his name until he was able to clear the title of the estate, which often meant going back for centuries tracing family history. When purchasing these estates the Congested Districts Board bought all the arrears. Some of the people found it very hard to pay those arrears, but the Board claimed a year's rent every year, which would be quite reasonable if only the rent was reasonable. Some of the tenants were quite unable to pay this rent, and then proceedings were taken against them. The Board was satisfied to get a year's rent within twelve months, but when it took proceedings it pressed for the whole rent due, which in many cases amounted to three, four, five or six years rent, and frequently decrees were granted against the tenants with costs. But, after all, the Board was still satisfied to take a year's rent together with the cost of the whole proceedings. He would suggest that the Chief Secretary should have these cases examined and reported upon before proceedings were taken, and then they would discover what was the condition of the particular individuals before they were sued. Some of them were not able to pay at all, and seeing that the Board were sometimes satisfied with one year's rent, surely an arrangement might be made by which they would only proceed for one year's rent, because the effect of proceeding for the whole amount greatly increased the costs. He had heard of cases in which the costs amounted almost to the year's rent, owing to the fact that the whole amount of the arrears were sued for. He had no doubt that when the right hon. Gentleman brought these facts before the Congested Districts Board the matter would be dealt with in a satisfactory and sympathetic manner. There ought to be some alteration in connection with the administration of the Board itself, because nothing could be done without its authority, and it met very seldom. He asked a Question a short time ago about a large grazing farm in his own constituency from which a few years ago some tenants were evicted. Since then it had been in the hands of a grazier, but recently it came into the market. The small tenants round about were anxious that it should be purchased by a public authority, and they wrote to the Congested Districts Board, but the parish priest, Father O'Hara, received a reply to the effect that the Board could not buy the land because it was outside the scheduled district, and that the matter could not be further considered until July, when the Board met. He (Mr. Hayden) then wrote and was told that the land was suitable. The land had since been sold to a butcher living twenty miles away. Yesterday another large farm was put up for sale in Dublin, a farm in Roscommon which it was understood two years ago was being acquired. But they were told that a grazier in the neighbourhood had a tenancy of three-quarters of the farm, which would be confirmed to him. The tenants then said it was not worth troubling about. Questions were asked in this House on the subject, but all the information they got was that this grazier had a tenancy. The negotiations fell through between the Estates Commissioners or whatever the body was and the landlord. His information was that the Commissioners desired to make the grazier owner for ever of three-quarters of this large farm. The landlord, who wanted to realise the land for ready cash, put it up for auction yesterday in Dublin. The announcement of the auction described a certain portion of the land as held by a grazing tenant under a grazing lease which could be terminated any year on three months notice. So far as the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners were concerned no real effort was made, as far as he had been able to ascertain, to obtain this land for the people, and it was left to Mr. Fitzgibbon, the chairman of the county council of Roscommon, and to the parish priest of the district, to go to Dublin at their own expense, and at great inconvenience, to do the work which some public body or paid official should have done. It was questionable as a matter of policy whether the Congested Districts Board ought to be represented at auctions at all, but still when land was for sale some effort ought to be made privately or publicly by one of these public bodies to get it for the people. In this case the land was purchased yesterday on behalf of the tenants by Mr. Fitzgibbon for £1,000 less than the amount at which it had formerly been offered by the landlord. He could not explain why the landlord let it go for £1,000 less than the public body might have given, unless it was that the negotiations fell through owing to the presence of this grazing tenant, or, as had been suggested, that he required ready cash down, and that neither the Congested Districts Board nor the Estates Commissioners were in a position to pay him cash for at least twelve months. If the Congested Districts Board had no ready money to deal with such urgent cases he thought the Chief Secretary should make some regulation by which it would have money on credit to enable it at once to plank down the money to any grazier or landlord who was willing to dispose of his land. Even with the present powers the work of the Congested Districts Board could be greatly expedited. The purpose was to unite the people with the land and to do it as quickly as possible, and that could not be done with the small staff now available. Nor could it be done until compulsory powers were conferred on the Congested Districts Board. There would be huge disappointment in the West of Ireland, and in the Irish Party, if in the earlier days of next session the right hon. Gentleman was not prepared to produce a Bill which would at once settle this question for ever on the right lines. If the inquiry suggested by the hon. Member for North Mayo were carried out, it would enable the right hon. Gentleman to lay his hands at once on the spot, and to see the real cause of the past failure to effect the needed reforms. It was not necessary to inquire into the condition of the west of Ireland, or whether a remedy was required for the state of things prevailing there. The condition was known, and that there was a grievance all parties admitted. The existing state of things was a standing menace to the peace of the country. The remedy was to capture the large untenanted grazing ranches as quickly as possible, divide them up, and plant the people there. If the people once got a chance on the land from which their fathers and grandfathers had been driven there was not the slightest doubt that they would be amongst the most hard working and prosperous in the country. It was sometimes said that the Irish were idle and thriftless. Let the people who said so follow the poor fellows to the harvest fields of England and Scotland and watch how hard they worked, sometimes for eighteen or nineteen hours a day, in order that they might bring home the few pounds which were necessary to pay the rent of their little holdings and keep their families until harvest work came round again in this country. It was a slander to say that these most industrious people were idle and thriftless.

*MR. DOLAN (Leitrim, N.) called attention to the small attendance of Unionist Members during this debate, and asked whether that was to be taken as evidence of the amount of interest taken by English Members in Irish affairs. Throughout the debate they had been represented by a single ex-Cabinet Minister and about four lesser luminaries. When the Congested Districts Board was established, hopes were entertained in Ireland that in the course of a few years most of the grazing lands would be bought up in order to provide the means of subsistence for the occupiers of the miserable holdings on the bogs and moorlands, but those hopes had been disappointed. Like every board that had its root in Dublin Castle the Congested Districts Board had been a miserable failure. There were hundreds of people in his own constituency living on miserable bog holdings in houses of two rooms, and sometimes only one room. Side by side with these bog holdings there were vast tracts of grazing lands, but during the past fifteen years not a penny had been spent by the Congested Districts Board to purchase these lands and distribute them among the poor farmers. It was true that in his constituency the Congested Districts Board had advanced a sum of money to finance the parish committees and for the making of roads. Of course, these things were laudable in themselves, but the Board was making no effort to strike at the root of the evil there. He did not blame the members of the Board who were responsible for its administration. He blamed the constitution of the Board, and he blamed the British Treasury. Most of all he blamed the British nation which controlled the Treasury. It was a disgrace to the British nation, which received every year from Ireland in taxes £3,500,000 in excess of what was due from her, that they would not give a larger sum than £240,000 to solve the most acute and grievous social problem in the country. The people of England could spend £250,000,000 on an unnecessary war, but he supposed the representatives of the people thought it was better to spend that money in slaughtering Boers than in undoing, in so far as they could the wrongs which the nation had inflicted on Ireland. The Congested Districts Board had not adequate powers for dealing with the question of congestion. Until the Board had compulsory powers to purchase land at a fair price and to resell it to the tenants it could not possibly deal with the question. There was nothing harsh in asking people to part with land at a fair price when they were left with more than enough for their own purposes. Surely land was as necessary to the subsistence of the people as air and sunshine. It was quite as criminal and sinful to deprive people of the land which was necessary for their subsistence as it would be to deprive them of air and sunshine. To his mind the gravest defect in the Congested Districts Board was its constitution; it was not selected from the representatives of the Irish people. Until the whole country was represented on the Board no advantage would be gained, because the need of each particular district would not be brought before the Congested Districts Board, which was an organic part of the system of administration in Ireland, known as Castle Government. His trust was in the spirit of the people of Ireland. The Irish nation was still a young nation, but as it grew older it would grow stronger, and its power of helping itself would grow. He maintained that they would never have a satisfactory settlement of this question until they had a complete system of home administration.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.) wished to direct the attention of the Chief Secretary to a few matters affecting particularly the parts of the West of Ireland for which the Congested Districts Board was responsible—matters which affected the peace, happiness, and comfort of the people whose interests he represented. His experience was that the working of the Board after purchasing some properties in Loughrea district had been so slow and dilatory in allocating land to the poor cottiers for whom it was intended that the impression had got on the minds of the people that it was intentional to keep the country in a state of disquiet and disturbance. He instanced the case of the Benmore Estate. Quite recently more of it had been disposed of to the tenants, but for a length of time the delay had been the cause of great commotion and disturbance in the West of Ireland. It was only within the past few weeks that the matter had been satisfactorily arranged, and he did not wish to rake up old sores. But the lesson to be drawn from the purchase of Benmore Estate by the Congested Districts Board was that the Board should not enter into negotiations for the purchase of any estate in future without first consulting the tenants and finding out from them what price they were willing to give. The tenants on Benmore Estate were actually in negotiation with the landlord for the purchase of their holdings when the estate, including the untenanted lands as well as the holdings of the agricultural tenants, was purchased over their heads by the Board. That was an act of great imprudence and unwisdom which he hoped would not be repeated. However, "all's well that ends well"; and he was glad to say that perfect peace now reigned all over the district. There was a small property, Ballyfindon, on the De Freyne Estate, on which for the purchase of their agricultural holdings the tenants were in negotiation with Mr. Flannagan, the agent of Lord De Freyne, three years ago. Negotiations went on and everything in connection with the sale was practically settled. All that was needed was to sign the agreement and send it on to Dublin. But the first intimation that the tenants had in reference to other negotiations with Mr. Flannagan was an application from the Congested Districts Board for a year's rent. Part of the tenants' negotiations with Mr. Flannagan was that all the arrears of rent were to be wiped out with the exception of a small portion which was to be added to the purchase money. The tenants consulted him on the matter but did not take his advice; and he understood that they were now in the same or worse position than they were three years ago, when the Congested Districts Board bought the estate over their heads. Then there was the case of the Goodbody Estate, which was sold in the first instance to the Congested Districts Board. That estate consisted of 1,100 acres of land, but instead of devoting it to the relief of the congestion in the neighbourhood, the Board sold 500 acres of the fattest of the land to the Agricultural Board for the purposes of the Department; and the Estates Commissioners, having acquired possession of the balance of the land, including 20 acres of woodlands, sold 300 acres of it to the landlady of the neighbouring town of Athenry at a time when the unfortunate cottiers round about were asking for land for small holdings. Was that business? Then, in a congested parish at one end of South Galway—Mount Shannon—were to be found fifty families whose average valuation did not exceed £5. He had furnished the particulars to the painstaking secretary of the Board. Lying along side of these poor people were large ranches of beautiful land with virgin soil belonging to a Mr. Wakely, and this gentleman, evidently in a desire to destroy and evade the beneficent intentions of the Act as far as it related to congested districts, was selling out whole blocks of this grazing land to men, graziers and others, who already had an abundance of land. He asked the Chief Secretary to take a special note of this case and to make a strong representation to the Estates Commissioners to investigate closely the circumstances attending these sales, and on no account to leave these unfortunate holders of small patches of land to face the future with dejected and broken hearts. He thought that steps ought to be taken to secure the grazing land around Mount Shannon for the inhabitants of the place who were living upon small holdings. If the right hon. Gentleman did not see his way to do that he would go down there and make it very warm for those people who were trying to oust from these lands the poor people who lived in the district. Nobody could say that in doing that he would be committing any crime, and he was prepared to take the consequences of his action. He apologised for having taken up so much of the time of the Committee, having regard to the very natural and laudable desire felt by so many of his colleagues to deal with matters local to themselves. He would conclude by impressing upon the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary the necessity of not modelling his action upon that of his predecessors in office, namely, listening to their complaints and letting them in at one ear and out of the other.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.) thought that the case which had been made showed very clearly that after several years there still remained a condition of things in regard to the land question, especially in these congested districts, which did not redound to the credit of the English Government and which claimed the attention of the Chief Secretary and the Administration. He wished to deal with the congestion in the part of the county of Kerry which he represented. The poverty in Kerry was intense among the people living in the bogs and on the mountains, and the problem was complicated by the fact that, unlike Connaught where there were miles of rich and fruitful soil, there was very little untenanted land available for distribution among the people in order to relieve the congestion. The land which had been sold to the Congested Districts Board had not been very large in amount, but still in the limited sphere of their operations the Board had given satisfaction. He did not think the Committee realised the condition of poverty which prevailed among the people, and which must continue unless the Irish Government intervened on their behalf. The poverty, squalor, and misery which prevailed was quite under-rated. The population of the south and west of Ireland, especially in the congested districts, was largely decreasing. Emigration was going on to a great extent because there was nothing in the country to induce the people to stay at home. In the whole of the congested districts of Ireland the population was 490,000, and of these Kerry had 80,000 or about one-sixth of the total. Kerry and county Cork, moreover, had about a fourth of the whole of the congested population in Ireland within their borders. He earnestly suggested to the Irish Government that the condition of the people in the congested districts south of the Shannon required attention. In Kerry the 80,000 people had to exist upon holdings the average value of which was £1 3s. per head, while in Killarney 7,600 people lived upon holdings the average value of which was 6s. 10d. per head. In his own parish there were 600 people living upon land the average valuation of which was 2s. 9d. per head. The condition of things which existed was a disgrace to the civilisation of our times. What were the people to do? If they were thrown entirely upon their own resources, their only chance was to send their sons and daughters away to the labour markets of the world. When, therefore, the children became of a suitable age they went away to endeavour to earn money to keep up the home. He thought it would be admitted that the housing of the people was one very important condition which had to be considered. Any person who had studied the social condition of any country must admit that where the conditions of housing were bad the nation as a whole suffered. In Donegal, Kerry, and Mayo in many cases from five to eleven persons lived in one room. Necessarily the most insanitary conditions prevailed. The young men in the districts, therefore, realising that they could do no good in Ireland, and the young women also feeling the same thing, emigrated to America. The proper housing of the labourers was essential; if they wished to make for the future happiness and prosperity of these people they must make their houses sanitary, healthy, bright, and cheerful. The next test he would take was the sad condition of the peasant at the present time, and the number of the people in the congested districts who were supported out of the rates. Donegal supported one in fifty of its population; Leitrim one in fifty-seven; Galway, one in fifty-two; Mayo, one in fifty-eight; Sligo, one in fifty-six; and Kerry, one in forty-five. Those figures showed that the condition of poverty was worse in Kerry than anywhere else, whilst they made abundantly clear that there existed a condition of very severe poverty throughout the country. Another test was that there were in the county of Kerry 6,400 holdings the total valuation of which was only £12,000, or an average valuation of £2 a holding. And upon those holdings 32,000 people were striving to live. These figures taken with the others proved conclusively that there existed a condition of things in Ireland which called for the immediate and urgent attention of the Chief Secretary, and he hoped when the right hon. Gentleman considered the urgency of the question he would include Kerry in the scope of his operations. He regretted that so little land in Kerry had been dealt with by the Congested Districts Board, because regard to whatever land had been sold in the Congested Districts Board and its officers had given the fullest and most ample satisfaction. He was sorry to say very little of the land in Kerry had been made available. The Irish Church body had a considerable estate in Kerry, and for three years he had endeavoured to get the land purchased by the Congested Districts Board, but the Irish Church body had done everything in its power to prevent the purchase. The chief agent of the Board had made a valuation of the estate, and, upon that, made his offer, but the offer had been spurned. What was to be done with a body of that kind? Were the people to wait for years before something was done for them? He trusted that before long such bodies, if they would not sell their estates voluntarily, would be compelled to part with them for the benefit of the people. With regard to other estates in his consitituency he had advised his constituents to make an offer to their landlords to purchase at a price to be fixed by the Congested Districts Boards. He could not understand why that should be considered unfair and unreasonable. The tenants did not expect to be more favourably treated than the landlords. The tenants had no more votes on the Board than the landlords, and ought only to pay the price which this impartial body said was the fair price. Up to now the landlords had been disposed to sell and he hoped they would continue to be so disposed. But he hoped that one of the results from the Committee which was about to be appointed would be that if a landlord unreasonably refused to sell to a tenant the Congested Districts Board should have power to acquire the land for the benefit of the tenant. With regard to the suggested Commission he hoped the Chief Secretary would understand from the cases he had endeavoured to submit that Kerry and the adjoining counties required special consideration. The conditions of Connaught and Cork and Kerry were entirely different, because, while there was plenty of land in Connaught to relieve the congestion, in Cork and Kerry there was not. But there were other ways in which the congestion could be relieved, and therefore he urged the right hon. Gentleman, in order that this question might be thoroughly discussed, ventilated and understood, to appoint men on the Commission who knew the South of Ireland well. The conditions were pitiable, and those who lived among the people there felt that something should be done before the Irish race was drained of its best blood.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said during the whole afternoon they had had a succession of Irish representatives rising to tell the Committee of the state of despair in which the people were. He confessed that after he had listened to the case of hon. Members opposite and heard their reports he was almost reduced to a state of despair himself. But he ventured to point out with regard to the Commission that there was already a Royal Commission sitting in Ireland and affording unbounded amusement to the people. No one knew why it had been appointed, but it was travelling through Ireland very pleasantly and was collecting the most amazing evidence that had ever been collected by a Royal Commission in the United Kingdom. Hon. Members opposite had asked for a Commission and he was prepared to support their request, but he should have thought that this House of Commons fresh from the constituencies, with a great Liberal majority, and knowing this question as they did, ought to be prepared to act and not to inquire. They would not see the end of that Commission in two years. Had they any guarantee that this Commission would move quicker than its predecessors? None whatever. He said, with all respect to hon. Members opposite, knowing as he did the terrible state of their constituencies and the urgent need for immediate and drastic remedies, it was a perilous enterprise upon which they were entering. Something had been said about the difficulties. The whole question was full of difficulties. This was not the first time the matter had been inquired into. They had had a dozen Commissions within the last few years. They knew the disease perfectly well. They knew the remedy, but they were thwarted in its application. The Land Conference recommended in 1903—

> "that counties wholly or partially under the operation of the Congested Districts Board or under districts of a similar character will require separate and exceptional treatment with a view to the better distribution of the population, and of the land, as well as for the acceleration and extension of these projects for migration and enlargement of holdings which the Congested Districts Board as at present constituted, and with its limited powers, has hitherto found it impossible to carry out on an adequate scale."

The Land Conference had the whole case before it. The landlords agreed with the tenants' representatives that that would have to be done. The remedy lay there. Let them see how the thing was faced in the Land Act. Let him be just to the right hon. Member for Dover: he did make an effort to deal with it. Here was the clause in the Land Act which was to deal with this question. It would show English Members how this House was thwarted and beaten in all its efforts to deal with the problem. A sub-section of Section 6 of the Land Act, 1903, said—

> "In the case of a congested estate as defined by this section, if the Land Commission certify to the Lord-Lieutenant that the purchase and re-sale of the estate are desirable in view of the wants and circumstances of the tenants thereon then the Land Commission may purchase the estate for a price to be agreed upon, and in such case the condition in this section as to the re-sale without prospect of loss may be relaxed to such an extent as the Lord-Lieutenant may determine."

That was rather involved to English Members. What did it mean? It meant that the Land Commissioners were authorised by that section to negotiate with these landlords to purchase their estates and even to give a price that would involve a loss. The clause left the House of Commons in that condition. But the Bill had to go to the House of Lords. When it came back the clause read in this way—

> "In the case of a congested estate as defined by this section if the Land Commission with the consent of the owner. . . ."

Those last were the magic words introduced in the House of Lords, and under that section not a congested estate had been bought. Why? It was perfectly plain. The Connaught landlords did not want to sell their estates to the Land Commission when they would only get the value of them. The estates would be inspected, their value would be tested, and they would only get a fair price. They preferred to haggle with these poor people, squatted on a few acres of bog with arrears hanging over their heads. They preferred to deal with them directly—a free bargain they called it. The words introduced into the section by the House of Lords absolutely destroyed the intention of the House of Commons. They did not want a Royal Commission to tell them that. They knew it. If the Estates Commissioners had been given the power which the House of Commons intended they should have, many a poor cottar tenant would be in a fair way to earning a comfortable living to-day. That was an example of how legislation had been thwarted. He had walked and driven over these districts. He commenced it twenty years ago, and he had visited them every year since. If any English

Member wanted his pulse to beat a little more quickly he strongly advised him to take a holiday during the recess in county Mayo or county Galway. Let him go to Lord Clanricarde's estate, whose only amusement now was to evict his tenants. If Members wanted to realise what the west of Ireland was let them go to county Galway or county Mayo, and it would not take a Royal Commission to convince them. He hoped hon. Gentlemen below the gangway opposite would get some guarantees about this Commission. These poor people could not afford to wait. Sir Horace Plunkett's Department could wait till the crack of doom for all that the Irish people cared. These people could not afford to wait; they were in imminent peril every day. He hoped his hon. friends would have a guarantee of a two-fold kind in regard to the Commission for which they were asking. He hoped they would have a time limit on the proceedings. What about the *personnel* of that Commission? They had one lesson already in the Commission which was now sitting. So far as this question was concerned the men in Ireland with knowledge of the subject long ago made up their minds, and they had not an open mind to give to any Commission. There was not a man in the whole of Ireland who had given his attention to this terrible problem whose mind was not closed, and who did not know that the remedy was quite clear. There must be a re-settlement of Connaught. That was what was wanted. If these men were shut out they must take men with no knowledge. Did they think those men coming fresh to the question would be able to report in six months so as to deal effectively with the problem? Those were the dangers and the difficulties he saw. After the famine tens of thousands of people were cleared off the land. Fifty years ago around Ballinasloe there were crowds of people where there was now absolute silence. Those who did not die or emigrate were driven on to the bogs—on to those miserable patches, which were called uneconomic holdings, or they were driven up the mountains where it was almost impossible to cultivate the land. It was very easy to do that because the Government of the day stood behind the evictors——

Mr. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): They stand behind Lord Clanricarde to-day.

*Mr. T. W. RUSSELL said the people could be cleared off in thousands then, but it is not so easy to put them back. If the Act of 1903 had been allowed fair play the Estates Commissioners would have done their best, and would have succeeded in doing a great deal to settle the problem. He confessed the Chief Secretary had almost driven him to despair upon this land question. He had no doubt the right hon. Gentleman had as kindly a heart and as kindly feelings towards these people as he himself had, but he was bound to say that the right hon. Gentleman's Answers to Questions rather sent him into a despairing mood. Yesterday he told them that nothing could be done on Lord Clanricarde's estate for the tenants where they were being sued for half a year's rent, and what happened? This was the cruel irony of the situation. Those who knew that estate were thankful for the era of peace it had enjoyed recently, but looking back ten or fifteen years they would recollect the state of things that existed at that time. The landlord held the whole peace of that province practically in his own hands. This landlord did not live in Ireland, and boasted that he had not been there for a number of years except on one occasion, and that was to attend his father's funeral. The case was so bad and hopeless that he was sure the proposal to grant a Royal Commission was only a counsel of despair. Unless they could guarantee that the Commission would act promptly and in time for legislation next session, and also that it should be composed of impartial persons and not Irish landlords, the latter end of these poor people on the mountain side would be worse than it was now. All the facts were known and everything was clear, and there was no difficulty about the matter which this House would not be glad to surmount. He believed if the Chief Secretary courageously introduced a Bill next session giving the Congested Districts Board the power of compulsory purchase and telling the other House of Parliament that they considered the comfort of the people was far more important than their land was to them—if the right hon. Gentleman would only take his courage in both hands, and face this problem, he thought the Liberal Party and a good deal of what was best in the Landlord Party would be found ready to support him.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said they had had bitter experience in the past of Royal Commissions, and the delay which had ensued in consequence of them. They had an example in the Royal Commission established to inquire into the financial relations of Ireland and Great Britain, which, after a great number of years of exhaustive inquiry, reported, and absolutely nothing had been done in regard to its Report. The whole history of Ireland was strewn with Royal Commissions, and he thought the hon. Member for South Tyrone knew this sufficiently well clearly to understand that no Nationalist Member would be in favour of a Royal Commission on the lines of former Commissions to be used simply as a means and an excuse for postponement and delay. No such Commission could possibly be demanded by hon. Gentlemen sitting on the Irish Benches. The Nationalist Party had just as bitter an experience of Royal Commissions as the hon. Member for South Tyrone, and they had just as lively a sense of the uses to which they had been put by successive British Governments. But that was not what the hon. Member for North Mayo and others desired. The situation in Connaught was perfectly well understood by the Irish people, and by the hon. Member for South Tyrone, and in fact by every Irish representative. They had not the slightest doubt as to what the remedy ought to be, and if they had a Government of their own in Ireland there would not be the slightest hesitation in dealing immediately with the grievance and applying the proper remedy. Unfortunately they had to deal with the Members of this House who were the sole authority and their last resort, and under those circumstances he thought it was a fair proposition that for the information of the new Members of this House—who, with all their sympathy towards Ireland could have but a limited amount of information in regard to Irish questions—there should be collected for their use and information within the next few months, in a correct and convincing and convenient form, all the facts and figures in reference to the state of affairs in the west of Ireland. The hon. Member for South Tyrone had invited hon. Members who wished to obtain information to visit Connaught during the recess. He only wished that they would do so, because he was sure the result would be highly beneficial to Ireland, and highly satisfactory to hon. Members themselves. But it was impossible for any such invitation to be accepted, and they could not expect hon. Gentlemen who had come fresh to Irish questions and politics in this House to be acquainted with those terrible things of which every Irish Member was convinced. They could, however, ask the right hon. Gentleman and the Irish Government, whilst giving an undertaking that there should be nothing in the shape of unnecessary delay, to appoint certainly not Irish landlords or men who were prejudiced, but a body of independent, competent, upright gentlemen in whom the public at large would have every confidence, and request them without delay, and with all the advice and assistance which the Irish people would give them, to go to those districts which were particularly affected, get the information, put it into convenient form, and by the time Parliament met next session have it ready, so that they might go to the Government and say, "Here is a statement about which there is no doubt, because it is reported on by this Commission, composed of gentlemen in whom you have confidence, and it is a condition of affairs which we believe you will lose no time whatever in dealing with." That was the position which they took up with reference to the Royal Commission, and it was a reasonable one. The hon. Member for South Tyrone had worked hard and long and brilliantly for the Irish tenant farmers, and nobody recognised that more than the Irish Members. But he would not deny that before he gave the Irish cause that assistance the hon. Member for East Mayo fought strenuously for the Irish tenants and suffered in their cause. Therefore they were the last men to be blind to the danger of a long-delayed Report, but they were asking for something intensely practical that would be of the utmost assistance to the Chief Secretary and the Government in dealing with this question. That was the view which he took, and he thought it was the view taken by Irish Members generally. He would be somewhat disappointed if it was not also the view which would be expressed by the hon. Member for East Mayo, and others who were regarded as the leaders of the Irish Party. Probably some hon. Members might think he had no claim to interfere in this debate in view of the fact that he himself did not represent one of the congested districts. It was a mistake to imagine that this question of congestion in Ireland was confined to the scheduled districts. The Member for Kerry, and other hon. Gentlemen representing districts outside Connaught, could speak with equal certainty of the necessity for the relief of congestion in their own constituencies. He represented the county of Clare which was not, but in many districts it ought to be, scheduled as congested, At any rate, he knew that there were hundreds and thousands of holdings in that county, as well as in Kerry and elsewhere, which were uneconomic and where the people were living in a state of congestion under which there was absolute necessity for the enlargement of their holdings by the breaking up of grass lands. He appealed with great respect and confidence to the Chief Secretary, because he felt convinced that he intended if he could to solve those problems which he went to Ireland to investigate; and if he did not solve them he was sure that it would not be due to any fault on his part. He hoped that nothing would occur to alter that feeling towards the right hon. Gentleman. He appealed to him to give instructions to the Commission to inquire not only in what were called the congested districts, but wherever there might be congestion throughout the land. He asked that the large tracts of untenanted land, whether in Connaught or other parts of Ireland, should be given for the relief of the people in the congested districts. If that was done, there would be a satisfactory settlement of the question. English Members could have no possible idea of the state of affairs in Ireland unless they carefully inquired. It had no parallel in the world. The soil was fertile in the last degree, it was well watered, and the country was favoured by nature in every way; and, yet, what did they find? They found districts where there was more misery and squalor, more want, privation, and hunger, than in any other part of the world. The people were living in houses worse than pig-styes, and side by side with those wretched, overcrowded, insanitary districts, they found large tracts of the most fertile land, where one might travel hour after hour, and mile after mile, without seeing the slightest vestige of humanity. These tracts were as devoid of human beings as the wildest prairie in America, or the most lonely stretch of bush in Australia, while here and there were marks of where human beings had lived not so many years ago—the broken gables and the ruined walls of the little homesteads of the people in days gone by, showing that, if allowed, people could live there again. Were Irishmen unreasonable if they came to this House and asked that the men whose ancestors had been driven from these most fertile tracts should be given an opportunity by fair and reasonable government to cultivate the land? Was not the state of affairs in Ireland the most heartbreaking and miserable thing that could confront any public man? Week after week, and month after month, the flower of the Irish race, the bone and sinew of the people, the youngest and brightest, physically and intellectually, were going to America. Why? To look for land to live upon. They were going across the broad Pacific to New Zealand and to the backwoods of Australia for the same reason; and all the time their native country, with a soil far richer than that of any other country in the world, was in some parts as destitute of human beings as any part of Canada, the United States, or Australia. In God's name he appealed to the Chief Secretary not to allow any influence to dally with this question. He appealed to him to recognise that what was wanted in Ireland was a readjustment which would enable the people to go back to the land and live upon the soil. That would be a relief to Ireland; and would it not be an untold relief to England? What consolation could English Members draw from the fact that last month and the month before something like 12,000 or 15,000 young Irishmen and women went away from their country? The continuance of the present state of affairs in Ireland was a constant danger and menace to England. The representatives of Ireland sympathised with the British people when in this House reforms were sought for the amelioration of their condition; but every week, every month, every year, they were found pleading in the same way that something should be done for Ireland. If the Commission to be appointed was properly worked, and if it reported promptly, evidence would be given that the Irish people had a real grievance: that in asking that they should be given an opportunity of living on the land they were asking something which was good and necessary for their country, and something which, when accomplished, would be a welcome relief and benefit to the British people as well. The people of Ireland said that nothing effective would be done unless compulsory powers to acquire land were granted. He did not deny that there were landlords who were willing to come forward and assist in the settlement of the land question under the Act of 1903, but there were others, like Lord Clanricarde, who could not be moved. He did not know their motive. Goodness knew how it was that they stood out from their fellows and insisted on getting their full pound of flesh under the letter of the law. It did no good to England, and it was a cause of misery, and sometimes bloodshed, in Ireland. For those men who would not act fairly there must be compulsion, and sooner or later it would come. Why should it be delayed? Last year he spent several months in Australia and New Zealand inquiring into the condition of affairs there. They had in many places there a system of compulsion under which lands were broken up and the people were put on the soil, reasonably-sized farms were established, and there was more progress, prosperity, and contentment in those portions of the Empire than in any other part of the world. No man out there would say that when land was compulsorily acquired for the benefit of the public at large anything had been done contrary to justice or repugnant to the British constitution. Those things had been done, and splendid results had followed. There was nothing to be frightened at in compulsion. There were in the county of Clare fifty years ago 260,000 people, no doubt, in many cases, poor, but fairly happy. Now there were barely 100,000 people. Every year a proportion of the young men and women of Clare emigrated, and how could he be otherwise than indignant at the conditions which caused this horrible and unprecedented depopulation? How could he be but indignant in appealing that in justice and in reason there should be no delay in removing one of the greatest grievances that existed in any of the regions presided over by the King at the present moment?

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.) said that no one who knew the state of Ireland would consider that Irish Members had done unwisely in devoting the better part of that Parliamentary day to the discussion of this question. There was no subject which was more acute, none with which legislation and administration had been struggling longer, and none which it was more important should be approached in a practical spirit. He would not occupy time by explaining either the political or the economic forces which had produced what was called congestion in many parts of Ireland. This state of things had continued so long that it was a painful fact that the physical and intellectual character of the people had been affected by it. To him that was the saddest part of the whole matter. It was the part which was the hardest to cure, and it was the most difficult part of the problem for this reason also, that even when they brought about better economic conditions they could not at once have a generation of people who were fit to profit from the better economic condition created. Therefore, though much had been done within the last twenty-five or thirty years, they must not be surprised if the results had not altogether answered their hopes. But, above all, they must hope that that apathy, that want of hopefulness and vigour which had been the result of living under those deplorable conditions, would by degrees pass away in the new condition. What, substantially, was the problem with which they had to deal in the congested districts? A very large part of the people were living upon land which lay in most cases along the seaboard—and in most cases it was very poor land, consisting almost entirely of bog and stone, land which the poor people tried to render valuable by carrying little patches of earth to improve it. It was artificial land which had actually been created on the western coast of Ireland. They might see along parts of the coast of Connemara and the west of Galway, places made up of holdings not exceeding two or three or four acres. But it was also by some tragic fatality in the very places where the holdings were smallest that the land was worst, and therefore to describe the size of the holdings was not to convey any adequate impression of the capacity of the holdings. Life could not have been supported at all in many of those places upon what the land gave —not even with all that patient industry which the people had given to endeavouring to improve their property. They had improved it. The people lived mainly—not on the barren land, but on the produce of the wages which their sons and their daughters earned when they went to work in Scotland. He had seen whole country sides in Ireland which lived almost entirely on what was brought home from three or four months work in Scotland. And there were other parts in the south where the people in the same way went to work in South Wales and brought home money from the mining districts there. But for that assistance the rent could not be paid. Rent in a great many parts of Ireland bore no analogy to those doctrines of economics of which they read at college. He would like to echo the request made by several Irish Members, that English Members should spend part of their vacation in visiting some of these places and islands in the West of Ireland, famous in legend and history. On the coast of Galway people were living entirely off fishing, and obtained practically no living off the land. Fortunately a sort of terrestrial providence had appeared off those islands in the shape of the Congested Districts Board, and as criticisms had been passed on the action of the Board, he would like to ask hon. Members if they found themselves in one of the most beautiful parts of that kingdom—Clew Bay—to make a voyage out to Clare Island and see what had been done by the Congested Districts Board there. There were three ways in which the problem of congestion could be dealt with. The first was by enlarging the holdings. The only way they could do that was by taking a large number of people to inhabit some of them. Secondly, to do that they must have migration, and to migrate people from the congested areas to other areas they must acquire other land. That had been the purpose of the Congested Districts Board. The third was to start other industries, and to give the people other ways of living than that which the soil alone afforded. That had been done with considerable success in some districts. Nothing was more hopeful in the state of Ireland than the improvement in the fisheries of late. He had seen in proof part of the Report for the present year, and hon. Members would find when they obtained it—as he trusted they would before the end of July—a good many interesting and even encouraging facts. They had done a great deal to diminish congestion. In many cases they had rearranged the holdings. That was a much more difficult matter than it might appear, because it would constantly happen that a tenant who had a holding of perhaps only six or seven acres, would have it scattered over fifteen or twenty different pieces of ground, and the first thing that had to be done was to take the whole tract of perhaps thirty or forty or fifty or sixty acres, which was covered with those petty bits of ground into which the holding had been divided, and to bring them together, to induce the tenants to have the land —scattered as it was in that form— and then to have some little attempt at draining and making paths and access between the patches. That was a slow process, and one of considerable difficulty. It was a process which wanted a good deal of tact, in order to persuade tenants to accept the re-arrangement which the Congested Districts Board made for them, and that was one of the causes of the delay which had inevitably arisen in the operations of the Board. Now that had been done, cottages had been improved, and in some cases new cottages had been built. Plans had been supplied for those cottages, and the tenants had been encouraged to build them themselves. Material had been supplied to them in many cases by the Board. The Board had a steamboat which brought cargoes of what was needed by the people, especially in the islands—cargoes of wood to make certain of their implements connected with fishing; and which took their cattle ashore at the time of the fairs, in order that they might be sold, and which also in many ways was able to do for the people—especially of the islands—things which they could never have done for themselves. Of course it was essential in order to relieve congestion that they should be able to migrate tenants. That was attended with considerable difficulty because a good many were not willing to migrate. It was a serious thing to ask a man to go thirty miles away from his own place. He might be told that they went to America. That was true, but they were taken there by their friends; and besides, America had been represented as a place where high wages were to be got, and a great many rents in Ireland could never have been paid, and a great many people could never have subsisted if it had not been for what they got from friends in America. Therefore, migration from one part of Ireland to another was less attractive than going from Ireland to America. Then, again, what was the use of taking a tenant and planting him down in another part of the country, forty or fifty miles from his old home, if they could not give him a house, a little stock, some tools, and a little capital? All these things the Board had to consider, and for that they required money. Then they must endeavour to secure the most promising people. They could not take the first man who offered himself. They must endeavour to search about. All these things, however, the Board had been trying to do, and they had done it, he thought—if with less success than was desired or expected, still it had conferred a great benefit on large classes of the people. A great deal also had been done in the development of the fishing and other industries. Within the last few years an immense fishing industry had sprung up in Donegal. Last year he thought more than £61,000 was the produce of the herring fishing, and that was an industry which had been almost entirely developed by the exertions of the Board. In some parts of Cork and Kerry the fisheries, chiefly mackerel, had been very much aided, partly by the Board and partly by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Technical Instruction. Instructors had been sent down and efforts had been made to find markets for the mackerel, which efforts in some quarters had been extremely successful. He had been along the coasts during the last two vacations and had found everywhere a more hopeful feeling among fishermen, and the prospect that this industry would continue to yield excellent results. Then they might take lace. There were places in Ireland where the value of the lace and crochet work sold was greater than all the rents paid in the district. The total value of lace made last year exceeded £21,000, and that was besides that which was disposed of by private agents, not known to the Board. He wished to pay a tribute to what had been done not only by the Congested Districts Board, but also by the Estates Commissioners. The Estates Commissioners had powers different from those of the Congested Districts Board in settling tenants upon estates, and in many cases they had succeeded in buying untenanted grazing lands and settling tenants on them. He gathered from what he heard, that in cases in which they had done this the results had been excellent. He believed that there were places where a whole countryside had now been settled by a population. Formerly that land was used for grazing, and industry, peace and harmony had been introduced where formerly there were solitude, destitution and disorder. The Estates Commissioners had done a great deal of excellent work in that way, and if he had time he would like to read papers he had on the subject, showing the admirable work that had been done. It was most encouraging to go among these tenants and see the new spirit of hope and helpfulness which prevailed. The Estates Commissioners had purchased 25,500 acres of these untenanted lands in Galway and Mayo, they had created 220 new holdings, and enlarged 1,300 holdings. He might be told that this was paternal government. Well, it was in a way, but when people had been subjected to adverse and unwholesome conditions for almost two centuries, how could they be expected to stand alone at once, any more than they could expect people who had been kept in a dark dungeon and chained to the floor to stand erect under the sun when they were suddenly brought out. All the paternal work of the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board was being amply justified, and he hoped it would be continued. He must deal very shortly with some of the complaints which had been made against the action of the Board. He gladly admitted that the general tone of the discussion had been in no way unfair or unkind. Every speaker had recognised—it was impossible not to recognise—the public spirit, the zeal, and the sympathy present in the minds of the Board; and those who knew something of the men who composed the Congested Districts Board would know that there were no better men to be had in Ireland for the work than some of those men, and none with more desire to help their fellow-countrymen. There had been comparatively slow progress in the purchase and re-sale of estates, but that was partly due to the fact that the Board had had to make a great many experiments. It had been a great deal hampered by some provisions of the Act which called it into being. The Board had power to buy land, but it had no power to settle upon the land any tenants except those who came from congested areas, and the definition of a congested area was somewhat artificial. Speaking broadly, the definition of a congested area was by no means one that met the whole problem of congestion. There were a good many districts where real congestion existed, which did not come within the operation of the Board, and thus they were either left untouched, or to such assistance as the Board of Agriculture could give them. The hon. Member for West Kerry had complained with regard to the small services that the Board had rendered to Kerry and Cork as compared with certain other districts. He was not surprised to hear that from him, nor was he surprised to hear it from Members from Cork. It was true that the Board had done comparatively little for those counties. The fact was that there was practically no untenanted land available in Cork or Kerry. That applied also to Donegal. If the Board removed people from these districts to other parts of Ireland, further difficulties would arise. The people would find themselves comparative strangers in Connaught or other counties, and that was one of the reasons why so much could not be done for these people as might at first sight appear possible. The Board had, however, done what they could for the friends of the hon. Members in Kerry and Cork. The best thing they could do for them was to help them to improve their land and to get more out of it and to develop their industry. He believed that in this case that could be done. But the hon. Member must not suppose for a moment that the Board were not aware of what they owed to Cork and Kerry; they were anxious to do all they could in both those districts, but it was not quite so easy to apply the same remedy as that which they had begun to apply in Mayo and Galway. The hon. Member for West Mayo had raised a question about the purchase of land. He was satisfied that the Board had done the best they could for the district which the hon. Member represented, and that they had made most judicious purchases and arrangements. The hon. Member had also raised a question with regard to demesne lands in the county. There were a great many difficult cases with regard to title, and the staff in the office of the Estates Commissioners had not been large enough to grapple with the work. He hoped, however, that as the result of steps which had been taken, the work would proceed at a more rapid rate. The hon. Member had also asked him to give instructions to Judge Ross to sell certain land forthwith. He (Mr. Bryce) thought the hon. Member for West Mayo did not understand the conditions which prevailed. If he did, he would see that he was asking him to do something quite beyond his power. As to the De Freyne estate, the Congested Districts Board were not in the position of owners but of trustees, and they might be called upon to account for everything they did. They were therefore obliged to take proceedings for the recovery of more than they intended to exact from the tenant, but they did not intend to exact more than the rent admittedly due. The hon. Member must not therefore suppose that the Board intended to act unfairly in any way.

MR. HAYDEN said the people were very poor, and a few shillings was a consideration to them.

Mr. BRYCE said he was informed by his right hon. friend who was a high authority upon this subject, that it would not be legal for them to receive rent only for the last year. As to the question of costs he hoped the Board would consider the subject, and that some relief might be given. The hon. Member had also mentioned the case of a sale in the county of Roscommon, where property was bought in because the Board would not buy it. The owner there afterwards sold to a private buyer at a lower price than he would take from the Board. The owner thought because he had the Board to deal with that he could make them pay what he liked, but the Board rightly resisted the attempt, considering that it was not right for them to give the landlord more than his land was worth. The hon. Member for South Galway had mentioned the case of some property in Galway where he said there had been a sale made to the Board of Agriculture, and afterwards to the Estates Commissioners. He (Mr. Bryce) was informed that there was no sale to the Estates Commissioners. Part of the property was sold to the Department of Agriculture, and that was required for the purposes of experiments with model farms, and the Department had also to provide a place to keep bulls, and other stock for the benefit of neighbouring tenants. He thought the sale was perfectly justified. As regarded Mount Shannon he would direct the attention of the Board and the Estates Commissioners to the question of acquiring grazing ground in that direction. The Commissioners were always anxious to use their powers when they could to acquire land with a view to settling tenants. He was sorry to hear the hon. Member say that he would go down and endeavour to make it hot for them. That was not the way in which these cases ought to be dealt with, when they had the machinery to deal with them in a legal way.

Mr. DUFFY asked what was to be done when they had notice that in the West of Ireland the Estates Commissioners sanctioned sales to men already in possession of large grass farms of hundreds of acres and the Government did not interfere.

Mr. BRYCE said that whatever they did they were not to use violence, because they would injure the cause of Ireland by doing so.

Mr. DUFFY said he never used violence.

Mr. BRYCE was glad to hear that. The hon. Member knew that the Estates Commissioners were extremely anxious to get all the land they could for division among tenants. That brought him to another question of great importance, to which several Members had referred. There was a suggestion that a sort of plan of campaign was in operation by certain landlords in the West of Ireland to take advantage of the advantageous terms offered by the Land Purchase Act to sell their estates by auction, to create tenants, and then to get these tenants to buy through the medium of the land purchase machinery, and in that way get a bonus for themselves. That had been attempted in a few cases, but he was glad to say that the attention of the Commissioners was very soon called to the matter, which was what he should call an improper attempt to use the Land Act for purposes for which it was never intended, and which it would have been necessary to stop by legislation if the Commissioners had not found themselves in a position to stop it by administrative action. The Commissioners were doing their best in the matter and they had the means to prevent the Land Act being used in this way. Speaking generally, he would say that when they considered how many difficulties the Board had had to confront, how little experience there was when the Board started out, they had done a great deal of excellent work, and he did not think they deserved anything but recognition on the part of those whom they tried to serve. At the same time he admitted that there were features about the Act which established the Board, and administrative features of the Board's action, which deserved to be carefully studied, and before any request was made to him for consideration of the whole action of the Board, he was coming to the conclusion that the time was approaching when it would be necessary to see whether something could not be done to arm the Board with further powers, to strengthen the Acts under which it proceeded, and to enable it to be more useful to the country. He had done what little he could to see the districts in which it operated and to endeavour to understand the difficulties in its way. Those difficulties were great. The funds at the disposal of the Board did not seem to be sufficient for the discharge of the functions which Parliament had imposed on it. The other difficulties related to migration and the acquisition of land. He agreed with the hon. Member for East Clare that the country possessed nothing like complete statistics, figures, or *data* with regard to congestion. They ought to know the area and the population, and whether there were districts not now scheduled which ought to be scheduled. They wanted to know also how much more population there was in the congested areas than those areas could support; where the untenanted land existed; and on all these points he thought the information they possessed was very far from satisfactory, and he could not in the least degree agree with the hon. Member for South Tyrone that they had all the information they needed upon these points. Probably he knew all he wanted to know, and probably a large number of Irish Members knew all they had need to know, but English Members and the general public did not know, and when they came to legislation he wanted to have the support of British public opinion in order to deal with these problems. They wanted therefore more complete information, statistically and economically, with reference to the exact state of the country. They also wanted to know the result in a summarised tabulated form of all the experiments which had been so far made, and especially of the migration and the subsidising of industries. If they were to have a Board with greater powers in the future, and if they were to have the work the Board was doing in these districts done in others by another Board, much more complete information than they possessed would be required with regard to what had already been done and with regard to the lines that should be followed in the future. Therefore, he entirely concurred in the views put forward by the hon. Member who opened this discussion that there was a complete case made out for an inquiry. But he was disposed to go further. He did not think it worth while endeavouring to grapple with the problem of congestion here and there; they should grapple with it as a whole. No doubt by far the largest portion of the areas congested were those which came under the present management of the Board, but there were other areas and areas which they might not call in the strictest sense congested where limits similar to those of the congested districts should be applied. They had at present three authorities dealing with this matter—the Congested Districts Board, the Board of Agriculture, and in a certain sense the Estates Commissioners. They felt it was a sort of patchwork to a large extent, where at one point the Estates Commissioners slipped in and the Congested Districts Board slipped out. Taking all these things together he had come to the conclusion that it was extremely important that they should have an inquiry into the whole subject. The importance was even greater when they considered what was being done under the present Act. They were creating tenants who would become owners, and who were paying annuities for their land. It was suggested in some quarters that they were paying too much and that the investment they were making was not perfectly secure. If that were the case it was all the more important that they should throw any light they could upon the question by investigation. He might therefore say that His Majesty's Government had come to the conclusion that an inquiry into the problem of congestion in Ireland would be a very proper and seasonable inquiry, that it should be directed to the problem of congestion as a whole and be conducted by a Royal Commission. He heartily echoed the opinion expressed by hon. Members that the Commission ought not to be in any sense partisan, but should be one which would inspire confidence. It was not altogether easy, however, in a country so much divided by political Parties as Great Britain, to find people with absolutely open and dispassionate minds, and all he could say was that he would to do his best to find people who would inspire confidence. He thought the Committee would feel that it was necessary to have confidence all round. They must have a Commission which would inspire the confidence, not only of those for whom hon. Members had spoken, but also of those whose interests might be supposed to be adverse, and also of the large body of opinion both in Great Britain and Ireland and of the two

Houses of Parliament whose concurrence was necessary for the passing of legislation. The composition of the Commission was therefore of the utmost importance, and the Government would give to it the most careful consideration. He might tell the Committee that he thought the reference ought to be wide and comprehensive, and he hoped the matter would not be one of political or economic controversy. He cherished the hope that there was growing up in Ireland a feeling amongst landlords and tenants that this question had got to be settled, and that the sooner it was settled the better. He thought they might rely upon that sentiment, and that it might be possible to find men from both sides who, on the one hand, would not endeavour to press for measures which would excite strong opposition on either side, and, on the other, would admit that the so-called sacred rights of property must give way to the general public convenience and necessity. That was their hope. In any legislation that might follow —and of course it was the hope and wish of the Government that legislation should follow—their desire would be to find a settlement. He did not know how long the inquiry would take, but the Committee might take it that when they appointed a Commission they meant business. He would fain express the hope that they would have support from all classes, and that those who would have to administer any legislation passed would have support, in the first place, from the people themselves by their endeavour to facilitate the Commission that was appointed, and, as he thought the tenants generally did, to put a little trust in the Board and to believe that they were acting for the benefit of the tenants themselves. In the second place, he hoped they would have support from the public spirit of the landlords, and there were many landlords who felt that they must recognise that the social order and peace of Ireland were involved in the settlement of this question, and that they must endeavour to facilitate legislation. Lastly, he hoped they would have the support of the leaders of the people whether they were lay or ecclesiastical—that they would feel that, if this question was to be settled soon and finally, it was of the utmost importance it should be settled in times of peace and tranquility. They were now favoured with these conditions. He hoped they would last, and he ventured to say to hon. Members that they could do nothing more to help a Government which earnestly desired to help them than by endeavouring to help to preserve in Ireland that peace and tranquility which would make it far easier to pass and to carry out the legislation which they hoped to introduce.

MR. WILLIAM O'BRIEN (Cork) said the Chief Secretary had made an important and interesting statement, and he for one would be very slow indeed to throw cold water upon any proposal that might come from the right hon. Gentleman in the difficult position in which he was sometimes placed. He quite agreed with the hon. Member for South Tyrone as to the history of Royal Commissions in general in Ireland. But whatever might be the upshot of the Royal Commission that was now announced nothing could be worse than the stagnation in which this great question of the redistribution of the land to the population of Connaught had lain for the past two years. On the whole his belief in Royal Commissions was as little as that of the hon. Member for South Tyrone. Nevertheless, under all the circumstances, he for one was quite willing to believe that this Commission, inspired as it was by the present Chief Secretary, might by some possibility prove to be the exception. The whole thing would depend absolutely upon its *personnel*. He had some hope, and even a certain amount of confidence, that the Commission would be so composed as to give to their recommendations a weight which would ensure their being respected. In his opinion the remedy for the heart-breaking state of things in the West of Ireland was to be found in quite a different direction from anything that had been said; but he did not wish to press his own views too much at this moment. He entirely understood the able defence that the Chief Secretary had made of the Congested Districts Board. He entirely agreed with the high eulogium of the character of the persons who composed that Board, but, whatever services they might have rendered and undoubtedly did render upon a half dozen or so estates, and giving them every credit for their splendid intentions and public spirit, he for one was absolutely convinced from his experience of the West of Ireland that their function, so far as the land was concerned, was a completely obsolete one and that the money might as well have been thrown into the bog so far as a great and far-reaching settlement was concerned. He was convinced that the Congested Districts Board ought to be abolished, as it would be under its own Act in five or six years, and its revenue ought to be handed over to the Estates Commissioners for stocking and equipping small colonies of farmers' sons migrated from certain districts. If that transfer were made, if there were these additional powers, a repeal of the mutilation of the Act of 1903 by the House of Lords, and compulsory powers, then within two or three years, if they went the right way about it, there would be nothing to prevent the Congested Districts Board from buying up a million acres of untenanted land in the West of Ireland and setting the tenants to work instead of wasting another generation, as the Congested Districts Board had done, in buying up ten or fifteen estates and throwing away £100,000 a year. Under the circumstances, and knowing that the right hon. Gentleman was not making his proposal with any desire of procrastination, he for one wished him godspeed. He was delighted that the right hon. Gentleman proposed to extend the scope of the Commission to all states of congestion in Ireland, and he could only say that he hoped above all that he would pick out men for the Commission whose names would give weight to their decisions, and who would stand no nonsense, but go thoroughly into the subject.

And, it being a quarter-past Eight of the clock, and there being Private Business set down by direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means under Standing Order No. 8, further Proceeding was postponed without Question put.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY (IRELAND) BILL [Lords] (BY ORDER).

Second Reading deferred till Monday, July 9th, at a quarter-past Eight of the clock.

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid.) in the Chair.]

Mr. William O'Brien.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1906-7.

Class II.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £110,146, be granted to His Majesty, to complete the sum necessary to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Department of Agriculture and other Industries and Technical Instruction for Ireland, and of the services administered by that Department, including sundry Grants in Aid."

Whereupon Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £110,046 be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Conor O'Kelly.*)

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.) said that after the speech of the Chief Secretary, it was not necessary to labour the subject they had been discussing any further; but he wished to take this opportunity of calling attention to some matters connected with the work of the Congested Districts Board in South Kerry in the hope that it might be to the advantage of Ireland. Owing to the rise in the price of copper, there had been a good many inquiries recently into the possibilities of copper mining in Ireland. There was one large estate upon which a prospector had been inquiring, and he believed from all accounts that there were very hopeful prospects, if the mines could be worked. Unfortunately, owing to the state of the law, there was no possibility of giving leases for the working of these mineral rights; and he urged upon the Attorney-General for Ireland the advisability of finding some means by which the Congested Districts Board might be able to grant such leases. The development of the copper mining industry in Ireland would provide not only considerable employment, but open up a great industrial future in certain districts. When the legal differences had been surmounted he believed that the profits to be derived should to some extent accrue to the benefit of the tenants there. He did not say that those tenants were to be actual participators in the mining rights; but whatever system was evolved something ought to be set aside out of the profits for the benefit of the whole district, so that when the tenants had become the possessors of their holdings, the mineral rights would accrue to their advantage; and when the mines were being worked, a portion of the profits might go to assist in building up other industries in the district. One great difficulty in the constitution of the Congested Districts Board was that they had no direct representative from either Kerry or Cork; and, although there was no vacancy at the present time, he trusted that when one occurred they would appoint someone who possessed a direct knowledge of the local needs of both those counties. They wanted a man appointed from their own district possessing local knowledge. Some time ago Lord Shaftesbury was appointed, but he could never have that local knowledge of the fishing industry that was so necessary. It was of the greatest importance that some direct representative of those counties should be on the Board. He thought that most people would recognise, as regarded the industrial side of its operations the Board had done a great deal of useful work. Lace classes had been started in his district, and he knew of three girls who had their passage money sent them to go to America; but their prospects in the lace industry were such that they refused the money and preferred to remain in the lace trade. He thought the Congested Districts Board should endeavour to establish suitable industries in the rural districts. There was very great competition, and they felt this more particularly because of the great amount of imitation Irish lace that was put upon both the English and the American markets. It was certainly necessary for them to keep up the standard of Irish lace by good designs and of the utmost importance that they should protect Irish lace from being imitated and sold. The Chief Secretary knew the value of a trade mark and they were going to register a national trade mark for all Irish manufactures. He suggested that the Congested Districts Board would be of real value in this matter if it would instruct all its lace classes to take advantage of the Irish national trade mark and use it on every article of lace they turned out, because, by that means they would protect a really important and growing Irish industry. He believed that purchasers both in this country and in America would then begin to demand as a proof of the genuineness of the article those goods upon which the Irish national trade mark was to be found. The same precautions also applied to the homespun industry. Once a cottage industry spring up and was successful, imitations were produced in other countries, and he thought it would startle many people if they how much imitation homespun goods were made in Yorkshire and Lancashire mills and sold on the English market. If in some way through the Congested Districts Board this industry could be protected by the national trade mark he hoped it would be done. He also wished to urge upon the Chief Secretary that they required for the development of Irish herring and mackerel industry what they had already got in Scotland, namely, a national brand which enabled Scottish herrings to be known all over the world. During the last twenty-four years by means of branding fees £50,000 had become available for the Scottish fishing industry, and if a similar system of branding was instituted in the districts where the Congested Districts Board had charge of the matter it would be of the greatest possible value to the fishing industry in Ireland. The big curers were able to obtain a sale for their fish because they were well known, but the claim for the national brand for cured herrings and mackerel was on behalf of the small curers and buyers who could not compete with the big men, and it would enable the Irish cured fish trade to be put in a better position than at the present moment. With regard to the land question there was an estate in his district in process of being sold to which he thought it would be well if the Congested Districts Board turned its attention immediately; he referred to the Glenbeigh Estate. He understood that there was some little difficulty as to the actual terms, and he urged that the chief inspector who had charge of the negotiations should be sent down to the district to try and arrange an amicable settlement. He thought the misunderstanding was in regard to the arrears.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.) said he agreed with his hon.

friends in all that had been said as to the Congested Districts Board. It was one of the best institutions of its kind in Ireland, and if it had not succeeded it had not been from want of will, but from want of the proper facilities which he hoped would shortly be given to it, or to some similar institution. The speech of the Chief Secretary would revive hope in the hearts of the Irish people, and give those in the congested districts some prospect of a satisfactory settlement of their unfortunate condition. Although he was not a great believer in Royal Commissions, he hoped that the one now to be appointed, under more favourable and happier auspices than some of those which had formerly inquired into Irish questions, would be followed by good results. It was to be appointed by an Administration which they believed meant business in the matter. It would be appointed to carry out a definite work of urgent importance, and he thought a stimulus towards the fruition of the work would be found this time in Ireland which had been absent, perhaps, in the case of other Commissions. The whole thing would depend, in the first place, on the *personnel* of the Commission. If proper people were appointed, determined that the work entrusted to them should be carried to a practical conclusion, it might be hoped that the inquiry would be attended with good results. A good deal would depend also on the terms of reference. If they were sufficiently wide to embrace the various matters germane to the question of the distribution of the land, and the question of the encouragement of industries in districts where new operations could be carried on, they might expect good results. He impressed on the Government the desirability of appointing a really good and practical Commission, consisting of men in whom everybody would have confidence and with terms of reference so wide as to give hopes of a satisfactory result. He tendered his congratulations to the Government on the appointment of the Commission.

MR. FARRELL (Longford, N.) expressed the hope that the terms of reference of the Commission would be sufficiently wide to embrace an inquiry into the conditions in areas which were not at present within the definition of "congested districts." In his own constituency there were three parishes, not one of which would be regarded as a "congested district," but in which there were 500 holdings, the average valuation of which did not exceed £4, and from these places quite a considerable number of labourers went to England and Scotland to take part in harvest operations, thereby fulfilling the conditions which were applied in Kerry and Donegal. He hoped the terms of reference would enable the Commission to deal with such cases. He wished to point out to the Attorney-General that during the past few months the tenants had been trying to purchase their holdings on a number of estates, but owing to the excessive terms asked by the landlords it had been impossible to buy except in one case. He was perfectly certain that if this inquiry was fair and far reaching enough there would be discovered to be here and there throughout Ireland a considerable number of districts which were congested very seriously and where the people were living quite as badly as in the parts of the West so eloquently described by his hon. friends. There was hardly any county in the whole of Ireland which had suffered more from the drain of population than Longford. The population had fallen in sixty years from 112,000 to 41,000. There were large tracts of grazing land in the county which should be made available for enlarging the non-economic holdings. He hoped ample powers would be conferred either on a newly-created Congested Districts Board or on some other new body which would enable them compulsorily to acquire these grass lands or the benefit of the poor people who were now in bogs or on the mountain side.

MR. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley) said he was an old friend of Ireland. He had been to the country for the purpose of seeing the state of things which prevailed. As he was only a short time there his experience might not be of much value, but still some value might attach to the opinion of one who saw a country for the first time, and who had lived in other countries where the natural conditions were very similar. The part of England where he resided would be very like some parts of Ireland were it not for the advantages enjoyed from the manufactures carried on in the district. He went to Ireland as a Home Ruler, and when he came back he was more convinced in favour of Home Rule than before. Although a great deal might be done for Ireland by means of legislation, he was convinced that if the present laws were administered either by Irishmen or by those who were in sympathy with the people, the country would be in a much better and happier state than it was at present. There was a large amount of water power in Ireland at present unused which might be employed in the development of new industries. He knew a gentleman of substantial means who was quite prepared to start a new business with the aid of water power and give employment to a large number of people. That gentleman promoted a Bill in Parliament to acquire water rights, but when the Bill went to the House of Lords he was ashamed to say that one of the Peers suggested that it was a very improper thing to allow any interference with the landlords, a sentiment which was echoed by another noble Lord. The Bill was thrown out and the whole enterprise squashed. He thought also something could be done in the promotion of the manufacture of home-made woollen stuffs in Ireland. He had seen a good deal of this home-made stuff and he could say that it was very excellent. He agreed with his hon. friend opposite as to the inefficiency of Royal Commissions. Their common result was to shunt things indefinitely. He himself had gone through the congested districts, and had seen what the Board had done, and what they had not done. It did not require a Royal Commission to inquire into all these matters. He hoped that his hon. friends from Ireland would miss no opportunity of bringing the wretched condition of the people in the congested districts before the Government and the country so that everything should be done for their improvement, as a matter of common sense, and for the welfare, not only of Ireland, but of Great Britain at large.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.) said he spoke on behalf of the Irish Members when he thanked the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down for the sympathetic manner in which he had spoken of Ireland. He sympathised fully with the demands which had been put forward in connection with the condition of the West of Ireland at the present time, but he hoped that the Government would not forget that the condition of the South also required to be considered. He agreed with what his colleagues had said as to the *personnel* of the Congested Districts Board, but thought that the Board could do more than it had done to promote small industries in the congested districts of Kerry. For instance, in Killarney, beautiful lace was produced, which had won the first prize at the horse show in Dublin, and also in America. In fact that lace was regarded as superior to any which could be produced in other districts. Here again was an opportunity for the Board to encourage the carrying on of this industry amongst the poor people of the crowded districts. As to the land question, two farms had been purchased by the Board near the Lake of Killarney under very peculiar circumstances. During the administration of the Congested Districts Board by the right hon. Member for Dover, these farms were acquired for £150, but the tenants claimed that their interest was £2,000. An opportunity was afforded the Board of migrating people from the congested districts to these farms, but nothing had been done in the matter, and the farms remained practically derelict. That was a waste of public money, and he thought that the Board should negotiate for the re-instatement of the former tenants. He had put this case before the Members of the Board, from some of whom he had received the greatest sympathy and attention. He hoped that the new conditions of things would give new opportunities, and that this question, which if neglected, was bound to lead to unfortunate conditions for many people, would be dealt with by the Board in the same spirit that they had evinced in other cases. He also wanted to call attention to the fact that there was a considerable congested district in the county of Kerry, viz., that in which the moving bog disaster took place a few years ago. That disaster swept away a whole family of ten persons and caused much damage and suffering.

He believed that it originated in the fact that the outlet from the bog had not been kept in proper condition. What happened on that occasion might happen very shortly again. If the Board would send an inspector to examine the bog at the outlet it would be found that the statement which he had made was quite true. A considerable amount of employment might be given to the poor people in the district in making the repairs at the outlet so as to prevent any future disaster. In that particular locality there were a large number of small cottiers. He could offer no opinion at the present moment as to how those people could be best dealt with, but he knew that physically and intellectually they were equal, if not superior, to the people of other districts of Ireland. He thought the Congested Districts Board ought to have found employment for the young men and young women in the district before now instead of, through their neglect, causing them to migrate or emigrate. He had called the attention of the Congested Districts Board to the condition of things, but nothing had been done. The only large farm in the district was in the autumn put up for sale by auction, but the Board, although their attention was called to the matter, failed to negotiate for the purchase of the farm, and outsiders, shopkeepers and others, stepped in and purchased it and one certain form of relieving the congestion was stopped for ever. He believed that that was due not to the carelessness or the neglect of the members of the existing Board, but entirely to the absence of local knowledge of the necessities of the district. He believed that the members of the Board were sympathetic and that they wished to do their best, but it was impossible for them to take proper action without some local representation in the district. Therefore he put it to the right hon. Gentleman that means should be taken to give the South of Ireland some more effective representation on the Board than they had at present. He hoped the promised Commission would report speedily, and that its labours would be attended with good results. The success attained by the Congested Districts Board in the small undertakings in which it had been engaged would, he hoped, be the forerunner of larger successes in the future.

*MR. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.) said the present Government would go down to history as the Government of Royal Commissions, and he regretted that yet another Royal Commission was to be appointed to investigate the labours of the Irish Congested Districts Board. They had had some discussion as to the proceedings of that Board, and some of the criticisms had been adverse and some complimentary. The hon. Member who spoke last said he hoped the Board might in the future add to their successes, and it was cheering to know that some of their Nationalist friends thought that the Board had achieved any successes at all, because heretofore, nobody listening to the speeches of Members of that Party would have thought that it had done anything but squander a great deal of money without achieving any result. He was pleased that the Chief Secretary felt it right to pay his tribute to the work which the Board had done. The right hon. Gentleman had said that much good work had been done by it, and he hoped he might be permitted, as one who did not represent a district in which the Board conducted operations, but as one who knew Ireland well, to add his tribute in regard to the work. The Board, although its work might be slow, had done much for the betterment of the people of Ireland. He only criticised the appointment of a Royal Commission from the point of view that outside it might convey the idea that the Board had not done its work properly; but he did not object to the inquiry, because he ventured to predict that its report would be to justify the existence of the Board and to give increased confidence in regard to the discharge of the functions with which it was charged. Various direct and indirect attacks had been made upon the Agricultural and Technical Department of Ireland. He himself had probably criticised the Department as strongly as anybody, but he believed that, considering the short time it had been in existence, it had done very real and solid work of a high standard of excellence. He did not, therefore, desire to associate himself with the attacks which had been made upon the Department that afternoon, especially as a Royal Commission was going to sit in judgment upon it. In an important town in his own constituency, very shortly after the Department came into existence, and after repeated interviews with the officials of that Department, they embarked on an important enterprise of technical education. They started a school and it had been a great success. A Department yet so young was bound to make mistakes in carrying forward such matters as technical and agricultural education. It had been admitted that Ireland was exceedingly far behind in these important branches of education. In this connection he paid a tribute to Sir Horace Plunkett. For many years that gentleman had seemed to be casting his bread upon the waters, but finally the Government gave him a sympathetic ear.

MR. FLAVIN: Your friends helped to shove him out of the House of Commons.

*MR. BARRIE said that such interruptions only showed that sometimes a man who deserved the best at the hands of his country was the last to receive it. Ireland had no more unselfish worker than Sir Horace Plunkett. In the early days of the movement they knew that he refused to accept the salary that his office carried with it, and he feared their Nationalist friends were unable to produce another public officer who had acted in a similarly unselfish manner; if they were he would be happy to add this tribute of respect to him also. When our honoured King visited Ireland some years ago he had testimony given from the day of landing until he left Ireland from all public bodies—no matter what their political complexion was—emphasising the greatness of the work which Sir Horace was doing for Ireland. He (Mr. Barrie) had only met Sir Horace once, and even then only in an official capacity, but he had been impressed by the unselfishness of his labours and the sincerity of his desire to raise the educational standard of Ireland. He hoped the result of the inquiry that was going on would be to place on a more permanent and enlarged basis this important work of technical and agricultural education. The Member for South Tyrone had been very sarcastic about the value of this Royal Commission. He differed from the hon. Member in that respect. He did not think the Chief Secretary would endeavour to mislead the House by the promise of a Royal Commission unless he desired to give some effect to the recommendations of such a Commission, and he desired to say, as representing an Ulster constituency, that if the Commission recommended that further facilities should be given to relieve congested districts the Ulster Members would not be the last to fall in with any reasonable recommendations. They had listened to the dismal tale, told in eloquent language, of the condition of the people of Ireland. but he did not think they had heard quite sufficient of the other side of the picture. Englishmen were too prone to forget that three-fourths of Ireland was more prosperous and happier than it was a quarter of a century ago. Whatever side they looked at it would be seen that the average condition of the people of Ireland was far better to-day than it was twenty-five years ago. Even in Ulster they deplored the gradual decrease of population, but he believed that that was caused not by the reasons stated by hon. Gentlemen below the gangway, but by the long-continued unprofitable character of the agricultural industry. He hoped and believed with all the remedial measures now being taken, the growing improvement in the condition of the people would continue and increase. In conclusion he wished to refer to the remark of an English Member that he returned from a visit to Ireland a more confirmed Home Ruler than he went. He ventured to say that had he extended his visit a little further north and a little further south of the congested districts, to Belfast, Cork or Dublin, he would have found the people there just as prosperous and just as keen to take advantage of business opportunities as the people in any of the important towns in this country. The hon. Member for South Tyrone was from his speech to-night rapidly travelling towards hon. Gentlemen sitting below the gangway. He wished them joy of their new recruit. The Ulster Party had valued his association with them in the past, but they had now come to the conclusion that they would rather know for certain where he was than see him any longer suspended between heaven and earth like Mahomet's coffin.

*MR. VERNEY (Buckinghamshire, N.) said that twenty-five years ago he went to Ireland to look into this question for himself. He had then the great opportunity of going among the people themselves and of hearing their story told in their own way with a sincerity, truth, and eloquence born of experience which he could not forget. He went on to one of the largest estates in Ireland and heard from tenant after tenant how one by one the privileges enjoyed by their ancestors had been gradually taken away by landlords or their agents who hardly seemed to know what they were doing, until it became practically impossible for the tenants to live. He heard how in other days they had free turf, free seaweed, free kelp, free cattle runs, and how one after another these privileges had been taken away, privileges which taken each by itself meant so little in money,but which taken together meant all the difference between a happy and prosperous tenantry and the servile condition into which they had been driven inch by inch. He went to Ireland with an open mind and came back a confirmed Home Ruler—a believer in Home Rule not given all at once,but patiently and gradually acquired. The striping of farms had been referred to, and whilst he believed striping, if conducted under the supervision of some public authority, would be a perfectly harmless operation, he was bound to say he had seen farms striped by agents in cases where the rights of the tenants had not been considered in any way and he came back indignant when he was made to understand what he had seen. Whenever the tenants rights' were taken in hand by the Government, he hoped these adjustments would be made with honesty, fairness, and with sympathy for the people. When on this visit, he had an opportunity of visiting an Irish landlord of the old type, and he could not fail to see that this Gentleman, Mr. Mahony, of Dromore, was really the keystone of the social fabric of the community in which he lived. The government of his estate was a paterna government of the best character, because the character of the man was good; he was a born Irishman and understood the needs of the people amongst whom he lived. It seemed to him that there was no country in which personality was so important as in Ireland; when the people trusted those who were their natural leaders they gave such loyalty as would not be found in any other part of the world. He was glad to hear that a Royal Commission was to be appointed. The efficacy of a Royal Commission depended upon the men who composed it, the subjects which were submitted to its examination, and upon the men who comprised the Government of the country the Royal Commission represented. He earnestly hoped that all Parties in Ireland had sufficient belief in the present Government to be quite certain that the men appointed on this Commission would be chosen, not because they belonged to a particular creed or Party, but because they were men who would do justice as between England and Ireland, and that their labours would result in permanent benefit to the country. One other matter he wished to refer to. As an Englishman he had no particular bias towards any particular one of the sections into which Ireland was from time to time divided, but he could not but admire the wonderful power of combination which had made the agriculture of Ireland at once the envy and admiration of many of our English farmers. The power of combination which during recent years had been aroused among the farmers of Ireland was an object lesson to the farmers of England. He need only mention the name of Sir Horace Plunkett in connection with that work of combination which had raised many thousands of Irish tenant farmers from the verge of starvation to a position of comfort and even prosperity which they had never before enjoyed.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said he would be expressing the feelings of his colleagues when he said they were exceedingly glad when an Englishman took part in these discussions, particularly one who showed such a great power of sympathy with the Irish people as the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down. He believed that if any Englishman went over to Ireland in the spirit in which the hon. Member had gone, he would return a strong Home Ruler. The debate that day had been a very important and satisfactory one. They wanted to have an inquiry into the whole problem of congestion. All over the country the people had been turned off the rich lands and on to the poor lands, in some counties on a larger scale and in others on a smaller scale. It was not only a Connaught problem. What about Meath, King's County, Tipperary, and a long list of counties where there was to be found desolation and loneliness over tens of thousands of acres of the richest land in the world? Leaving this kind of land, one would suddenly pass on to a bog or stony mountain, and there find a crowd of people. Those people had been driven off the rich land by the operation of long centuries of evil laws, which were more ghastly and complete in their irresistible power than any war. He had heard with amazement the statement of the hon. Member for North Londonderry, that the condition of things in Ireland was not so bad as they said, and that it was due to the unprofitable condition of Irish agriculture. Was there ever a more monstrous statement and one which indicated a greater ignorance of the subject? The clearances in Ireland were carried out during a time when agriculture had reached its utmost point of prosperity; therefore such observations only showed that the hon. Member was not fit to discuss the matter at all. A good deal had been said about the Congested Districts Board. It had been often criticised by himself as well as by other Members, but never in an unfair or an unfriendly spirit. The Board was set up in 1891 by the present Leader of the Opposition to deal with the dreadful state of things to be found in the West of Ireland. If hon. Members would look at the original clauses of the Act setting up the Board, they would see that a more preposterous set of clauses was never passed. The right hon. Gentleman felt that something had to be done, and the Board was given some money but no powers, and told to go to the West of Ireland and do something. The Board was faced with an enormous difficulty, and the result was they were able to do exceedingly little. It was not the fault of the Board, but the insufficiency of legislation under which they came into being, and the whole history of the last sixteen years had been a history of new Acts smuggled through this House after midnight—somewhat in the way that the Musical Copyright Bill was now being tried to be passed through—by stripping off everything that was contentious, in order to aid the Congested Districts Board. With all these Acts the powers of the Board were quite inadequate for the work they had to perform, and therefore he had never lent himself to an ungenerous or a carping criticism of the Board, who had done their best. They had made mistakes, but they had had to travel an untrodden road. They were the first body that ever brought any practical sympathy or help whatever to this poor deserving population, and they had done a good deal, considering their resources. Therefore it would be the most unjust, foolish, and fatuous course to attack or criticise in a hostile spirit the action of these gentlemen. What they wanted was more power, more money, and reorganisation. They were asking the Government in point of fact to undo the work of two centuries, and it was impossible to resettle Ireland unless they were prepared to spend a million or two upon it. But was it not worth that, or a good deal more? It would be quite easy with proper machinery and a very moderate sum of money to turn this poor starving population, which had been the despair of British statesmen and the reproach of the Empire, into a prosperous and happy people. The Congested Districts Board was a Board of unpaid men, and they met only once a month. They had acted as pioneers and had shown what could be done. He did not share the somewhat pessimistic views put forward by the Chief Secretary as to the extent of the work, for in his opinion only the fringe of the task had been touched. In the spots where they had operated the Board had done admirably, but they had only touched the fringe of the subject. In the constituency which he represented they had done marvellously. If hon. Members came over to Ireland he advised them to pay a visit to East Mayo. The Congested Districts Board had bought an estate in Mayo, owned by an absentee landlord, who for about forty years had never spent one farthing on the estate, although he had been drawing from it about £20,000 a year in rents. On that estate there were 4,000 little tenants paying £4 a year which they earned by coming over to this country to work in the harvest field. The Board had spent £60,000 on improvements where £500 had not been spent during the previous century, and that money went largely into the pockets of the people for making roads and fences, and draining the land. By a proper system of drainage the Board had reclaimed and created some 1,500 acres of land for these people. It was hard to get an Irish farmer to admit that he had received any benefit, but one farmer had admitted to him that by this new drainage he had got thirteen acres of land for nothing. That result only proved what an enormous benefit it was to spend money in that way in Ireland. An additional difficulty in the solution of this question was that it was more difficult to get an Irish tenant to migrate a distance of twenty-five miles in his own country, than it was to get him to go to Boston or Massachusetts or Philadelphia. In going to America they knew they were going to their friends, but they had the greatest reluctance to migrate from one county to another, because they felt they were going among strangers. Was that not an additional argument in favour of instant action to solve this problem? Would it be believed that after fifteen years the law was in this chaotic and preposterous condition? Where the grazing land was close by the congested districts the Board could do nothing. They bought a farm in one instance, but on account of the state of the law the wretched little holders of land close by could not have any addition to their holdings, and the Board had to bring tenants from a distance, with the result that there was an agitation about the introduction of strangers in the district. The same thing was going on all over Ireland. All they had to do was to buy the grass lands, and without expense or difficulty of moving they could solve the problem by increasing the small holdings of adjacent tenants. That was one of the reasons why it was impossible for the Congested Districts Board to give satisfaction. It was no use for the Chief Secretary to say that they had now got machinery at work which was doing its best to solve the problem. The administrators of this policy must be furnished with sufficient powers to carry it out. On the Clanricarde estate tenants had been waiting in misery for three years to get the benefit of the Act of 1903, which, they were told, was to restore every evicted tenant in Ireland within a few months. Within a stone's throw of the Clanricarde estate there were tens of thousands of acres of the finest land in Ireland. He did not see why the Government should not deal with Lord Clanricarde now in the interests of law and order in Ireland. He agreed with his hon. friend in thinking that one of the good things which the last Government did was the appointment of the Estates Commission. They were honest men most anxious to carry out the policy of Parliament, but powers had not been given to them to do it. Their hands were tied. The Chief Secretary had made a strong appeal, almost given a warning, to the hon. Member for South Galway in regard to the preservation of order. He could quite understand the feeling which prompted the right hon. Gentleman to make the observation. But was it not hard to ask his hon. friend to be patient in view of the condition of the people? He was as a rule entirely averse to Royal Commissions in regard to Irish matters. He approved this one because it might conduce to keeping the people quiet during the summer. If there were no such sign of coming relief how could they say to their people "have patience"? For half a century the Irish people had been taught that if they were patient they got nothing, but that when there was plenty of disturbance and violence this House hastened to legislate. For heaven's sake let them not be taught that lesson again. He and his friends desired to keep the country peaceable, and their influence would be exercised in that direction. One of their strongest motives for supporting the appointment of the Royal Commission was that they could go back to the people and say that there was to be an inquiry. He believed that would help them to induce the people to have more patience, and to give the Chief Secretary a chance. The appointment of the Commission would give the people some hope that, in spite of their bitter experience in the past, there was really an intention to get at the facts of the case and to do something. He believed that this Royal Commission under the present

Government would not be a mere postponing machinery, but that something would be done quickly. The Cowper Commission was appointed in the month of October on the motion of Lord Randolph Churchill, and it reported in January or February, and legislation took place that session.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: What was behind it?

MR. DILLON said the Plan of Campaign was behind it. But did the hon. Gentleman wish him to start another Plan of Campaign? The very observation of the hon. Gentleman showed how strong his case was. They would do their best to keep the country quiet. The House of Lords, by the introduction of unfortunate words into the Act of 1903, destroyed that measure practically, but even without those words the Act would have been inoperative. Within his own observation estates which under the old Act sold at ten years' purchase had had twenty-four years' purchase offered for them. The Act of 1903 had enabled the landlords to raise prices between 50 and 100 per cent.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL reminded the hon. Member of the powers conferred by Clause 9 of the Act. Mr. Dillon said that that was the way in which the Act of 1903 had operated on these western lands. It had raised the price at least 50 or 100 per cent. In all those western states there was a deadlock at this moment, because the landlord was actually asking—and getting, too, he was sorry to say—twenty-four years purchase for his land. That was one of the chief obstacles, and until it was overcome by compulsory powers and a fair valuation it would be impossible to settle the question of the land. It was perfectly true that some of these little farms was not good security at twenty-four years purchase, and it would be dishonest of him not to tell the truth in regard to these matters. The British public had never lent money on better security than on Irish land, but it must be at a fair price. There was also the question of arrears of rent. For years the western landlords had let the land at a preposterous rent, which they did not expect to get and could not get. But they let the rent run on and took what they could and carried on the arrears. And there were estates in the west where there were seven or eight or nine years arrears of rent carried on for a period of twenty-five years. Were they going to shut their eyes and buy over for dishonest landlords at a fictitious price what was more or less a bad debt, and then undertake the invidious task of collecting those arrears? The first thing they ought to do with those landlords was to make them show their books and thus see what rent they really got. These were all matters to be inquired into. There was another point. The whole curse of Ireland had arisen from the practice of competitive rents and of trading on the fact that they had in Ireland an agricultural people with no other means of living. Seeing the time coming for the effort to settle the people, the landlords divided up their land into small sections so as to get the hunger for the land into operation. The result was that the land so split up was sold, it was taken by shopkeepers and others, and was gone for ever for the purposes of that Act. Thus they were setting up landlordism again all over the country and losing the possibility of settling this congested question. And by and by, when they had got the machinery for solving the congested problem, they would find that there was no land left. That was another reason why he wished to see this Commission constituted. He believed it would be a fresh declaration to Ireland of the policy of the Government, and that when people saw the Commissioners of this Parliament going round Ireland and mapping these lands for the use of the people, public opinion would be entirely too strong for any man to come in and take those lands. He believed that if the Commission was honestly and properly carried into effect, as he had no doubt the Chief Secretary intended that it should be, it would serve a double purpose. It would satisfy Ireland and aid them in preaching patience to their people, and it would place in a reliable form the facts of the Irish situation, and thus enable Parliament to bring to an end the present deplorable condition of affairs.

MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.) thought that they should be exceedingly glad that the Government had assented to the appointment of a

Royal Commission, because they all believed that it was a forward and not a backward step as his hon. friend the Member for South Tyrone seemed to think. They believed that the Commission would work rapidly and accumulate materials for the working out of the real remedy for a state of things the finding of a remedy for which had for many and many a year taxed the ingenuity of statesmen of both countries. It was an unfortunate fact that in spite of all the legislation of the past quarter of a century the very people whose sufferings perhaps more than anything else contributed towards the starting of the land agitation had profited less by that legislation than any other class. He knew many estates in which the conditions which had been described had existed for generation after generation, and the people had been condemned to the same state of misery which they now knew. Unless something revolutionary occurred no change in their state for the better was possible. In the fifteen years that had elapsed since the Congested Districts Board was first started many changes had occurred in Ireland, and he would be the very last man to say that that Board had done nothing for the districts which it was charged to administer. On the contrary, he entirely joined with the Chief Secretary in praise of the admirable work which the Board had done in relation to many things and especially in relation to the affairs of the Western Coast of Ireland, although naturally Irish Members wished they would do more. As regarded the land, however, he was afraid that there was no question at all as to their action, and that there was really no answer to what his hon. friend the Member for East Mayo had said, that the Board was not equal to the task which was thrown upon it, viz., the resettlement of Western Ireland and the congested districts. He would venture to suggest, moreover, that even after the resettlement of the land had been accomplished there would remain other questions and problems to be settled, and he quite agreed that concurrently with the question of the land, which was of the greatest importance, the Government would consider those other questions which also were very important in connection with the congested districts. For instance, he hoped that the Government would consider at the same time as the land question the question of transit as it affected the West of Ireland, and that they would also consider the very difficult problem of local taxation. They had had some very remarkable evidence before the Royal Commission on Local Taxation showing the manner in which taxes pressed upon the poorest parts of the country, and anyone who had read that evidence would see that after the re-settlement of the land there would remain matter for further consideration in regard to the future welfare of the people. Having said that, he wished to express the pleasure which they all felt at the step which the Government had announced their intention to take. There was no question that the reason for the condition of the congested districts was a matter as well worthy of the attention of the Government as many a thing which made a greater noise, because they had got there really to undertake the uplifting of the whole of the people. They heard a great deal now-a-days about people being got back to the land, and he had recently read a report by the Commissioners who were appointed to consider some proposals made by Mr. Rider Haggard for migration from the cities to land in the United Kingdom, and those proposals were considered with a certain amount of favour. It was suggested that they should spend large sums in getting people back from the cities on to the land, but it would be much simpler if they began at the other end. In Ireland they had people who were on the land, and who would be only too delighted to stop there if the Government gave them a chance. They had a people who clung to the land with a devotion perhaps unequalled in any other part of the world. They were a people who asked for little; they had been accustomed for generations to hard living, and it would be difficult to find in all Europe, at all events in Western Europe, a people who were so brave and whose patience was so remarkable under hard conditions of labour. It was quite true that the standard of comfort was rising and that under the influence of America people were less tolerant of hard conditions than they had been in the past, but still, if the Government gave these people but half a chance they were only too willing to remain upon the land. He believed that no greater or more admirable task could be undertaken by the State than the raising of the *status* of the people in these districts. The conditions of the congested districts was a menace to our civilisation, because it violated that divine law that all mankind were bound together in one brotherhood, and that if one suffered the whole body suffered. Therefore this was not a matter which could be neglected by this country. He did not think that it was a question in regard to which any part of the House would be content to remain inactive, and to allow these people to continue in the condition in which they were. The Government, therefore, in any policy for the improvement of the conditions of these people were sure of the hearty support of the representatives of the Irish people, and so long as they had reason to believe that the Government intended to act honestly in regard to this Commission, that they meant business, that they meant legislation to follow, they could be sure that, so far as the Irish Members were concerned, they would receive their most earnest support. It was sometimes charged against them that they had really no desire to improve the condition of these poor people and remove the evils and poverty from which they suffered. It was suggested that the Irish Members were really averse to improving the material prosperity of their country, and that they were really fishing in troubled waters, and found in the want of prosperity of their country a considerable amount of political capital. Such a suggestion was absolutely baseless. He did not think those who knew how these people lived would have the heart to adopt such a practice. They had a much broader faith in the people than to suppose they would ever be led away by that means.

MR. EDWARD BARRY (Cork County, S.) who was indistinctly heard, said that practically the work of the Congested Districts Board had been in-operative in the South of Ireland. It had been pointed out that there was very little land available for emigration but they had another field in the south—the sea. Useful work had been done as regarded the southern coast line in Father Davis's time, but since then nothing had been done. They could not expect that the necessary assistance would be forthcoming unless there was some change in the Congested Districts Board. Father Davis only survived the creation of the Board by a few years, but during that time he did work that would live long in the memories of the people of the South of Ireland. He asked that a representative for the South of Ireland should be appointed to the Board to make its work effective.

*MR. BYLES (Salford, N.) said he rose not because he thought he could add anything to what had been said as to the misery and suffering of the people of Ireland, but because he desired to point out that this was an English as well as an Irish question. It was not only Ireland that suffered, but England as well, and what surprised him was that Members with Imperial ideas should treat this question with such scant courtesy. Colonial questions interested them; they desired to see the British flag flying in every part of the world, but they did not address themselves to the question of Ireland, where there were 4,000,000 of their own kith and kin who were disgusted by the misgovernment of their country. The debate to-day had been one continued wail of distress. When he first came into the House of Commons in 1892, how full they all were of hope for Ireland. It was to bring deliverance to Ireland that that Parliament was returned. Fourteen years had passed, and how much more forward were they now? Ireland was still more depopulated, and there was the same tale of ruin and woe from the representatives of the Irish people. Was the Parliament of Great Britain so impotent that it was unable to deal with this problem? Much had been done. Many good measures had been passed by the Tory as well as by the Liberal Party, but every inhabitant of Ireland who knew his country said that something more must be done, for the country was going to ruin and decay. He supposed there were not many hon. Members who even knew what a congested district was. They thought it was an overcrowded place like a slum in Salford. The problem in Ireland was due to people having been driven on to land where they could not get a living, whereas the fertile land was denuded of people. The Chief Secretary said that with a view to legislation he must have the support of English public opinion, and that was one of the reasons why he was prepared to appoint this Commission. He would not pretend to criticise the Commission, but he did feel a little in agreement with the hon. Member for South Tyrone when he reminded the House of the number of Commmissions that had already sat. He should have thought that in the archives of the Irish Office there was information enough about the condition of Irish land to have rendered another Commission unnecessary; but he would leave that. What the people of Ireland were asking for to-day was land. To keep them on the land was the problem before Parliament. If it were not for the landlords, and if Parliament had only the Irish people and the land of Ireland to deal with, the problem would be easy of solution. It was only the Clanricardes, the Sligos, the Dillons, and the rest of the landlords who were in the way. They had been told how Lord Dillon had been expropriated by purchase. He had seen some of the tenants on that land, and he had also seen tenants on the De Freyne estate, and whilst the latter tenants were nearly always expecting to be visited by the police owing to friction with their landlords the tenants on the Dillon Estate were as happy and contented as they possibly could be. If the Congested Districts Board were given the powers and facilities which had been suggested he thought that would be a solution of the difficulty. How long were they going to go on in this way? They had a new Parliament and he had every faith in it, and the House was well disposed towards Ireland. They had a Chief Secretary in whom trust had been expressed and he shared that trust. He hoped that the result of this debate in which so many of the troubles of Ireland had been laid bare would be that the germ of hope which they entertained would be brought to fruition.

MR. PAUL (Nottingham) said his only excuse for taking part in this debate was that he was interested by a reference made by the hon. Member for East Mayo to Lord Cowper's Commission. How was that Commission appointed? Owing to a sudden fall of rents five years after the passing of the Land Act of 1881 Mr. Parnell introduced an Irish Land Bill which was rejected in the House of Commons. This was followed by the Plan of Campaign, and that was followed by the Commission over which Lord Cowper presided. He was a Unionist and a great Irish landlord, but he and his Commissioners were so much impressed by the state of things in Ireland that they recommended not only that judicial rents which had been fixed for fifteen years should be revised, but that leaseholders should be brought in under the Act. The Government of that day said through the mouth of Lord Salisbury that that would be not only impolitic but dishonourable. Some Liberal Unionist allies of the Government were not satisfied with that declaration and the Plan of Campaign was exceedingly successful. Before that Commission was over the leaseholders were brought in, and a great improvement was made in the social condition of Ireland. But the Government of that day made that change because they had entire control of the House of Lords. The present Government was exceedingly strong and had a very large majority and he hoped it would be able to do a great deal for Ireland as well as for England. There was, however, one suggestion he would like to make before he sat down, and it was that he hoped this Government, strong as it was, would not give any opportunity to the people of this country or to the people of Ireland, in connection with a Bill which he must not discuss, of saying that the Roman Catholics had to look to another place for protection.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

MUSICAL COPYRIGHT BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

Adjourned at four minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 29*th June*, 1906.

EARLDOM OF NORFOLK.

Message to the Commons for leave for the proper officer to attend the Committee for Privileges of this House in order to his being examined as a witness, and that he do bring with him the Journals of the House of Commons in order to their being produced before the said Committee.

The Lord Castlemaine took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with: St. John's (Westminster) Improvement; Cork City Railways and Works.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Midland Railway Bill. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

London and South Western Railway Bill. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Epsom and Ewell Gas Bill. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Uxbridge Gas Bill. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Waterford Corporation and Bridge Bill. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4.) Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

Poole Corporation Water Bill. Moved, That the order made on the 26th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2^a; agreed to; Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

London County Council (Money) Bill. Moved, That the order made on the 26th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with; agreed to.

Barry Railway Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to.

Sutton, Southcoates, and Drypool Gas Bill. Returned from the Commons with the Amendment agreed to.

London County Council (Money) Bill. To be read 2^a on Thursday next.—(*The Chairman of Committees.*)

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill; Water Provisional Order Bill. Moved, That the order made on the 26th day of March last, "That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bills be now read 2^a; agreed to; Bills read 2^a accordingly.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill. Read 3^a (according to order), and passed.

Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill. House in Committee (according to order). Bill reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Monday next.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. Committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

Water Provisional Order Bill. Committed: The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) Bill (No. 145); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill (No. 146); Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill (No. 147). Brought from the Commons and read 1^{a}; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LUNACY.

Sixtieth Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy, 1906. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BILL.

Thirty-first Annual Report of the Public Works Loan Board, 1905–1906; with appendices.

WOODS, FORESTS, AND LAND REVENUES.

Eighty-fourth Report of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues, dated 29th June, 1906.

POST OFFICE (MONEY ORDERS).

The Money Order Amendment (No. 1) Regulations, 1906, dated 22nd June, 1906.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

METROPOLITAN AMBULANCE SERVICE.

Petition for inquiry as to desirability of; of borough of Kensington; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE (NO. 2) BILL.

Read 3^{a} (according to order), with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS BILL.

Read 3^{a} (according to order), with the Amendment, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

ARMY QUALIFYING EXAMINATION.

THE EARL OF MAYO: My Lords, I beg to ask His Majesty's Government if they are aware that the next Army qualifying examination is fixed for September 18th, a date which coincides with the termination of the public schools summer holidays, and one that appears to be utterly inconvenient to everyone concerned. This is a most unfortunate time to have an examination, because it would spoil the boys' holidays. It is obvious that boys preparing for an examination could not be away from their work all that time, and the parents would either have to engage tutors during the holidays to work the boys up for the examination or else the boys would have to go to crammers. This would be most unfair to the public schools when they are endeavouring to pass boys direct into the Army and to do away altogether with the undesirable process of cramming. The time fixed for the examination is also one at which the masters as well as the boys are away, and I hope, therefore, that His Majesty's Government will alter the date by at least one month if not two months, so as to enable the boys to continue their work at school when they get back.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of PORTSMOUTH): My Lords, this Question only appeared on the Paper this morning, and I think my noble friend has forgotten that to-day is a holiday in the War Office. I have had no opportunity, therefore, of inquiring into the matter at all, or of communicating with any one upon it. If the noble Earl will postpone his Question until after Monday, I will communicate the answer to him direct, or, if he considers it desirable to put it again in the House, I shall be glad, after looking into the circumstances, to give him a reply

THE EARL OF MAYO: I certainly will not trouble the House by putting the Question again if the answer which the noble Earl communicates to me is satisfactory, but if it is not I must be allowed to raise the matter again.

SOUTH AFRICAN LABOUR.

***LORD HARRIS**: My Lords, I beg to ask His Majesty's Government whether there is any truth in the rumour that they contemplate reintroducing indiscriminate labour recruiting for the Witwatersrand from Portuguese territory; and to move for Papers. As your Lordships probably know, the recruiting of natives in South Africa for the mines has been undertaken by a body called the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association. The system of that Association has been substituted for one which prevailed before the war, and in a few words I will explain to your Lordships what went on before the Association was formed.

Up to 1889 the demand for labour on the Witwatersrand was not excessive, and although even then the Transvaal natives themselves did not come forward in large numbers, still there was an ample, or more than an ample, supply of labour coming through the East coast ports. That prevailed for some two or three years. The natives paid their own expenses to get to Johannesburg, and the rate of pay was, I believe, 1s. a day. But about 1889 or 1890, the demand for labour suddenly increased, and increased considerably, and the mining companies had to send out men as recruiting agents. These agents were paid a commission per head for each native brought in, as well as their travelling expenses. That went on quite satisfactorily for a few years, until the demand for labour became really severe, and there grew up a system of monstrous tyranny on the part of these labour agents and touts.

These men were carrying on a nefarious trade with natives on their way to the Witwatersrand, and to such an extent was this done, that the mining companies were very heavily mulcted in order to get the labour they required. The fees to the agents rose to as much as £4 and £4 15s. 0d. per head, and the travelling expenses also increased. At the same time the wages of the boys themselves very nearly doubled. The iniquities committed were really serious. In order to prevent this practice by the touts of waylaying natives who were on their way to the mines the Pass Law was adopted by the Boer Government, but it was so inefficiently administered that natives were unable to get the passes which they should have had, and were punished for not having them. Then the war came, and large numbers of natives left the Transvaal. Whilst the war was going on the mining companies decided to form an association to put a stop to the depredations of these labour touts and to improve the conditions under which the natives were recruited and passed from the frontier to Johannesburg. It was principally for this reason that the association was formed.

The association is practically a company, but one which distributes no profits. It is really a co-operative society for the purpose of obtaining labour in the most legitimate way, and its work is carried on under circumstances which should be open to inspection by Government and should be of the best possible character. That is the system which prevails now, but there is a rumour, which is supported by cabled information from Johannesburg, that His Majesty's Government contemplate making a change and setting up competition by giving licences to other persons to recruit. Your Lordships will understand that about 6) per cent. or more of the Kaffir labour on the mines comes from Portuguese territory, and it is there that the principal servants of the association are employed. These are men well known in South Africa, and of the highest respectability. Of course, a certain number of those persons who were engaged in obtaining labour before the war did not get employment under the association. There are, therefore, a number of men in South Africa who are indignant at having lost their occupation, and are jealous of the association.

Any stone is good enough to throw at the mining companies just now, encouraged as these people have been by some Members of His Majesty's Government; and one of the points of attack during the last few months has been the system of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association. It has been declared that their system is ineffective, and that the mining houses deliberately avoid getting as much native labour as is possible in order to bolster up the Chinese importation. Whatever faults may have been attributed to the mining companies, it is never suggested that they are not astute persons. They would be extremely foolish if they did not get as much Kaffir labour as possible, because it is cheaper than Chinese labour, and it is the fact that at this moment there are crushing mines which cannot get as much labour as they could wish.

The form of attack on the association is that they are not recruiting Kaffirs as successfully as they could if they chose, and that it is only necessary to give these licences to other people and thousands of additional Kaffirs will be forthcoming. That has been gone into most carefully on the spot by the secretary of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, who himself was a Government servant at one time, and he has shown most successfully in an elaborate report that these promises are quite fallacious. It was demonstrated before the Native Labour Commission by the same gentleman that promises of producing Kaffir labour which had been made by various people were, when put to the test, not fulfilled.

The point upon which I lay stress is this. The result of the introduction of this system has been a vast improvement to the Kaffirs themselves. Under the old system, anybody who could get a licence was empowered to go across country, pick up natives and bring them to the Witwatersrand, regardless of their comfort during the journey. All that has been changed. Every Kaffir recruited in Portuguese East Africa has to be brought to one place, where he is medically inspected to make sure that he is fit for the trying climate, where he is informed by a Government official of the conditions of service, and where he is supplied with blankets so that his journey up to the higher altitudes may be made in reasonable comfort. All these beneficial changes have been brought about by the system of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, and I do deprecate most strongly, without His Majesty's Government being advised from the other side to the contrary, any idea that may be lurking in their minds of setting up competition in this matter. The association will not suffer by it; it is too strong; but the person who I am afraid will suffer is the Kaffir, who will run the risk of being tempted away by men who are not as reliable, not as responsible, and not as respectable as the officers of the association, and who may mislead him by promises which may not be fulfilled.

I should be glad if the noble Earl could tell us what are the intentions of His Majesty's Government in regard to this matter. If they are not prepared to accept the responsibility of deciding upon the question of Chinese labour, why are they taking upon themselves the responsibility of deciding upon a question of this kind? The people on the spot are just as good judges of what they require in this matter as on the Chinese question. In a speech which the noble Earl made the other day he advocated the policy of trusting the man on the spot. I should like to know whether Lord Selborne has reported upon the question of the efficiency of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, and whether he advises the setting up of licencees to compete with the association. I should be glad to know whether he has consulted a very eminent Portuguese official, lately the Governor-General in Portuguese East Africa and now the Minister for the Colonies at Lisbon, who has an intimate knowledge of what is best for Portuguese East Africa, and who, I am told, has the very strongest objection to recruiting being handed over to any one but a strong association recognised by the Government, and whose operations are, so to speak, inspected by Government. I hope the noble Earl will be able to give satisfactory answers to these questions. I can assure him that this is a serious matter, and I trust that if any papers have been received upon the subject he will consent to lay them on the Table.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Earl of ELGIN): My Lords, to the Question of my noble friend as it appears on the Paper, I think the briefest and most accurate answer would be a simple negative. His Majesty's Government do not contemplate reintroducing indiscriminate labour recruiting for the Witwatersrand from Portuguese territory, and therefore I do not think it is necessary for me to comment upon, or add anything to, the description which the noble Lord has given of what took place before the war under the system he condemns. I might just say that, so far as His Majesty's Government are concerned, their policy would essentially be directed to the improvement of the condition of the natives, and to safeguarding their rights, and would certainly not revert to practices such as the noble Lord has described.

The noble Lord has told us of the origin of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association and how they came to take up the recruiting of native labour for the mines. He described the association very appropriately as a co-operative society. I venture to think that a very good description because the whole essence of its position was that it represented the mine owners and those interested in the working of the mines for which this labour was recruited. It it is essentially a voluntary association. It does not depend on any official sanction; it was the deliberate action of the mine owners themselves to combine for this object. I am not prepared to deny that having a single agency for a purpose of this kind has considerable advantages. But all depends on the association having at its back the force by which it was originated; and if it is found that there are substantial interests connected with the mines of the same nature as those for which the association was formed, or that some of those who took part in the formation of the association are not satisfied with the state of things as they now exist, then the position of this co-operative or voluntary society becomes considerably modified.

I was rather surprised that the noble Lord made no reference to an answer which was given on behalf of His Majesty's Government ten days ago in another place,† and as it very precisely defined the position we take up, I would ask your Lordships to allow me to read it. The question was—

> "Whether the Government are aware that the sole right to recruit Kaffirs is enjoyed by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association; whether they are prepared to put an end to this monopoly; and whether they will throw open recruiting of Kaffirs to other responsible persons or bodies."

The Answer given by the Under-Secretary was—

> "The Witwatersrand Native Labour Association is a voluntary union of all or most of the principal mineowners to regularise and control the recruiting of native labourers for the mines——"

*LORD HARRIS: My information is that all the mining groups are in co-operation.

*THE EARL OF ELGIN: I am quite willing to take it that they were at one time.

*LORD HARRIS: They are now.

*THE EARL OF ELGIN: The reply given on behalf of the Government proceeded—

> "It occupies a commanding position so far as recruiting in British South Africa is concerned, and enjoys a practical monopoly in respect of British Central Africa and Portuguese East Africa. Although this arrangement constitutes a great improvement upon the 'free recruiting' system which it has replaced, it is not itself without serious disadvantages. His Majesty's Government are not unwilling to permit recruiting on equal terms by other bodies; but their *status*, substance, and responsibility must be clearly established beforehand in each particular case, in order that there may be no risk of the natives being deceived by extravagant promises or ill-used on their way to the mines."

I hope your Lordships will understand from that answer that there is no intention of considering recruiting by agents who may have lost their occupation in consequence of the changes that have taken place since the war. What is in contemplation is to meet the objection of substantial mining interests which are not contented with the association, and do not consider it, as the noble Lord does, as representative of the whole of those interests.

I would remind your Lordships that this question of recruiting in Portuguese East Africa depends on an Agreement which was concluded between Lord Milner as High Commissioner and the Governor-General of Mozambique in December, 1901. In the second Article of that Agreement it is laid down that the collectors of labour are to be accepted by both parties, and I maintain that in the Answer which I have read, that provision is provided for, and that an inquiry into the *status*, substance, and responsibility of the persons who apply for permission to recruit does carry out on our side the conditions of that Article.

For the rest the matter remains with the Portuguese Government. It is for the Portuguese Governor-General, and for him alone, to give permits for recruiters. Under these circumstances we have had to consider the necessity of communications, not only with the High Commissioner, as the noble Lord suggested, but also possibly with the Portuguese authorities. Those communications are still proceeding, and I am therefore not in a position to give a final and definite answer as to what may be the outcome. Nor am I able to say with precision what Papers I shall be able to lay upon the Table of the House, but I can assure the noble Lord that His Majesty's Government have nothing to conceal in this matter. They are simply working out the policy described in the answer given in the other House, and which I have quoted. I shall be quite prepared, when the time comes, to give your Lordships any Papers in connection with this subject that I can reasonably be expected to produce.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 1363.

House adjourned at five minutes past Five o'clock, till Monday next, Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 29*th June*, 1906.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, the Standing Orders not previously inquired into, and which are applicable thereto, have been complied with, viz. :—Nettlebed and District Commons (Preservation) Bill [Lords]; Ritz Hotel, Limited, Bill [Lords]; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

Cambrian Railways Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments

Bury Corporation Bill [Lords]; Clacton Urban District Council Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

Newport Harbour Commissioners Bill [Lords]; Railway Clearing System (Superannuation Fund) Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Sheffield District Railway Bill [Lords] (by Order). As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Local Government Provisional Order (Housing of Working Classes) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 3) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill. As amended, considered; read the third time, and passed.

Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill. Reported, with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP H).

Mr. MOONEY reported from the Committee on Group H of Private Bills, That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday next, at half past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to :—Indian Railways Act Amendment Bill; Education of Defective Children (Scotland) Bill; North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill; Brixham Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill, without Amendment.

Kettering Water Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, relating to Bolsover and District Water, Great Grimsby Gas, Great

Grimsby Water, Hoylake and West Kirby Water, Wath-upon-Dearne and District Gas, and Wollaston Gas." [Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade, under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, relating to Charing Gas, Chichester Gas, Corsham Gas, Farnham Gas, and King's Lynn Gas." [Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under the Gas and Water Works Facilities Acts, 1870, relating to Newport Pagnell Gas, Pontardulais Gas, Raunds Gas, Redditch Gas, and Saint Austell Gas." [Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under The Gas and Water Works Facilities Act, 1870, relating to Herne Bay Water, Maidstone Water, Mid-Kent Water, Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water, Sleaford and District Water, and Slough Water." [Water Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled. "An Act to confirm certain Provisional Orders made by the Board of Trade under The Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 and 1888, The Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act, 1890, and The Electric Lighting (Scotland) Act, 1902, relating to Bellshill, Blantyre, Bothwell, Dunfermlime and District, Dunoon, Fochabers, Inveresk, Shettleston, and Tollcross, and Uddingston." [Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for confirming an agreement between the right hon. Godfrey Charles, Viscount Tredegar, and the trustees of his settled estates, and the Alexander (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Company, for the conveyance to the Company of lands forming part of the settled estates; and an Agreement between the Company and Lord Tredegar for the issue to Lord Tredegar of a sum of £100,000 Preferred Ordinary Stock of the Company; for authorising the trustees of the settled estates to purchase from Lord Tredegar a sum of £25,000, part of such last-mentioned Preferred Ordinary Stock; and for other purposes." [Lord Tredegar's Supplemental Estate Bill [Lords.]

Earldom of Norfolk,—That they request that this House will be pleased to give leave to the proper Officer of this House to attend, in order to his being examined as a Witness before the Committee for Privileges, and to bring with him the Journals of this House in order to their being produced before the said Committee.

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 286.]

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 287.]

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 288.]

Water Orders Confirmation Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 289.]

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 290.]

Lord Tredegar's Supplemental Estate Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

BETTING AND GAMBLING.

Petitions from Hyde, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

DUBLIN CIVIL BILL COURT AMENDMENT BILL.

Petition from Dublin, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; from Alvaston and Boulton; Bylchan, Denbigh, and other places in the Diocese of St. Asaph; Cholsey (two); Newport; Rhiw; and, Wylam; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; from Beccles; Biddenham; Clophill; Dacre and Soulby; Newbiggin; Podington; Sedgefield; Stamton; and Upperthong (two); to lie upon the Table.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Petitions for alteration of Law; from Stone; and Whitby; to lie upon the Table.

LAND VALUES TAXATION, ETC. (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, against; to lie upon the Table.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petitions for alteration; from Glasgow; Manchester; and Whitby; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

SUGAR CONVENTION (NO. 5, 1906).

Copy presented, of Report of Proceedings of the International Sugar Commission, Spring Session, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC WORKS LOAN BOARD.

Copy presented, Thirty-first Annual Report (for 1905-6), with Appendices [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 227.]

WOODS, FORESTS, AND LAND REVENUES.

Copy presented, of Eighty-fourth Report of the Commissioners, dated June 29th, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 228.]

ISLE OF MAN.

Account presented, of Revenue and Expenditure for the year ended March 31st, 1906, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to printed. [No. 229.]

POST OFFICE (MONEY ORDERS.)

Copy presented, of the Postal Order (Inland) Amendment (No. 1) Regulations, 1906, dated June 22nd, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

INCLOSURES (COUNTY OF NORFOLK).

Return ordered, "showing (1) the number of Inclosures of common land made under the Inclosure Acts from 1845 to 1899 in the County of Norfolk; (2) list of parishes within which such lands are wholly or partly situate; (3) total acreage of such Inclosures; (4) average acreage of such Inclosures." (*Mr. Winfrey.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Dismissal of Irish National School Teachers.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the number of Irish national school teachers who have been dismissed by order of the Board for inefficiency, degraded from the position of principal to that of assistant on the same allegation, or forced to retire on small pensions when within five years of their maximum service, during each of the last ten years, with average number of years served in each case.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Commissioners of National Education have furnished me with the following statement:—

Year.	Teachers dismissed for inefficiency.	Teachers degraded from position of principal teacher, but not dismissed.	Teachers from whom salary was withdrawn within five years of their maximum service.
1896 - - -	Nil.	Nil	Nil
1897 - - -	6	Nil	1
1898 - - -	16	Nil	1
1899 - - -	24	6	6
1900 - - -	19	Nil	9
1901 - - -	18	2	6
1902 - - -	26	1	6
1903 - - -	41	5	17
1904 - - -	61	3	24
1905 - - -	49	2	7

The average service of the teachers included in the last column was thirty-seven years.

Rateable Value and Income-Tax on Bass's, Allsopp's, and Guinness's Brewery.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that the rateable valuation of Bass and Company's brewery at Burton is £43,771, Allsopp's in same town £28,673, and Guinness's brewery, Dublin, £12,000; will he say if income-tax is charged upon these valuations as well as local rates and taxes; and can he say at what date the Commissioner of Valuation will be in a position to commence the revaluation of the City of Dublin.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) The information, on which I was able to reply to the hon. Member's Question on the 14th instant † respecting Messrs. Bass's breweries, was supplied by the secretary of the company, who courteously informed the Commissioner of Valuation (Ireland) that the net rateable value of their three breweries was £22,150. I understand that the figure quoted by the hon. Member includes stores and other buildings besides the breweries. The figure given for Messrs. Alsopp's breweries is, I believe, approximately correct, if the other buildings are included. The amount, £22,000, stated by me to be the valuation of Messrs. Guinness's breweries was taken from this year's valuation lists. The revenue is not affected by the amount of the valuation, inasmuch as the annual value on which property tax is paid is allowed as a deduction in computing the profits of the business for assessment under Schedule D. The Commissioner of Valuation informs me that he expects to begin the revaluation of Dublin within the next two months.

Transportation of Unemployed to the Colonies.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the

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† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 1112-3.

President of the Local Government Board if he will state how many adult males have recently been sent to New Zealand by unemployed committees receiving aid from rates or public taxes, and how many sent elsewhere across the seas.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) Up to May 31st last, the Central (Unemployed) Body for London had sent 350 adult males to the Colonies, viz. 41 to New Zealand and 309 to Canada. The Returns from the Distress Committees outside London show that, up to March 31st last, they had sent 152 adult males to the Colonies, all of whom went to Canada. The later figures have not yet been received.

Report of Motor Cars Commission.

MR. YOUNGER (Ayr Burghs): To ask the President of the Local Government Board when the Report of the Royal Commission on Motor Cars may be expected.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I have made inquiry on this subject, and I have every reason to believe that the Report will shortly be presented.

Outbreak of Ophthalmia at Rugby.

MR. R. PEARCE (Staffordshire, Leek): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the frequent recurrence of cases of ophthalmia, conjunctivis impetigo, and other preventible diseases at the public school at Rugby during some years past; and whether, by holding an inquiry or otherwise, he will take steps to prevent danger to the public health by the spread of these disorders, usually arising from bad sanitary arrangements.

(*Anwered by Mr. John Burns.*) I was not aware of the outbreaks referred to. I will communicate with the urban district council on the subject.

Increase of Rates between Newhaven and Dieppe.

SIR JOHN BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Company have for several years past charged more than their legal maximum fares for passengers from London or Newhaven to Dieppe, and that their Bill of this year, which has passed this House, allows of an increase in the legal maximum; and whether the Board made any Report upon the Bill as regards these facts.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The Board of Trade have recently pointed out to the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Company that the fares they are charging to passengers from Newhaven to Dieppe, and to third class passengers from London to Dieppe, appear to be in excess of their powers, and the Company is putting reduced fares into operation on the 1st proximo. The Company's Bill of this Session contains a proposal to increase the maximum fares authorised on the steam vessels between Newhaven and Dieppe. No Report from the Department on this proposal appears to be required by Standing Orders, but the Board communicated with the Company, who agreed to make a reduction in the maximum fares proposed for second and third class passengers. The new maxima will be 12s. 6d. and 8s. 6d., in place of 13s. and 10s. respectively, as originally proposed, and the Company have undertaken to amend the Bill accordingly.

Board of Education Library Catalogue.

MR. THOMASSON (Leicester): To ask the President of the Board of Education, whether, in view of the current controversy upon education, and the complexity of the whole subject, he will arrange for a printed catalogue of the library of the Board of Education at St. Stephen's House to be prepared and made available at the earliest possible time for the use of the general public.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The question of a catalogue of the Board of Education Library has, I know, been under consideration; but as the hon. Member's Question is only put upon the Paper to-day, and the library and office of the Board are closed to-day, being His Majesty's Birthday, I am unable to obtain the requisite information for giving an adequate Answer to the Question. If he will put it on the Paper again this day week I will endeavour to furnish a considered reply.

Orange Processions at Carrickmore.

MR. MURNAGHAN (Tyrone, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether he is aware that it has been announced that a body of Orangemen, with bands and banners, are to parade the streets of Carrickmore, county Tyrone, on the coming July 12th, and that their coming is viewed with resentment; is he aware that the district is overwhelmingly Catholic, and that the presence on such a day of men with Orange emblems, and bands playing party tunes, is calculated to create ill feeling and likely to incite to riot; and whether, seeing that the late Government refused to allow Catholic processionists to march through Protestant strongholds and vice versa, will he take steps to forbid the intended procession to take place.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The matter in question is being inquired into. The necessary steps for the preservation of the peace will be taken, but I am not at present in a position to make a statement as to the particular steps which may be necessary. It is much to be desired that both parties would agree to desist simultaneously from the practice of marching with party emblems and bands playing party tunes, a practice which has frequently caused breaches of the peace.

ELECTIONS (MEETINGS IN SCHOOLROOMS) BILL [LORDS.]

Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 285.]

LAND TENURE BILL.

As amended (by the Standing Committee), further considered.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (City of London) said that in his speech on the previous Friday he had pointed out that the principal defect of Sub-section 1 of Clause 1 was that it left out a line which appeared in a similar section of the Agricultural Holdings Act of 1900, which in his opinion constituted a safeguard, namely "of the inherent capabilities of the soil." He admitted on that occasion that there were many hon. Members on the Opposition side of the House who believed their object would be obtained by leaving out those words "the inherent capabilities of the soil." The reason they objected to the words being inserted was that should there be any dispute it would be very difficult to ascertain what improvements were due to the inherent capabilities of the soil, and what to some other reason. It was, he admitted, difficult to find out what had been produced by the inherent capabilities of the soil, and what had been produced by better work on the part of the farmer, and he agreed that nothing that could give facilities to the members of the legal profession for earning money should be put into an Act of Parliament. But the thing must tell the other way, and the effect of leaving these words out would be what very frequently happened now, namely, that a farmer would take a farm in first-class condition, hold it for three years, take all he could out of it and go away. In one particular case in which he was interested the man went bankrupt and they ascertained that he never had any capital, and he had been living in that way for the previous ten years. In regard to these words the landlords were willing to come to a compromise and not engage in litigation, because they knew it was difficult to say what was due to the inherent capabilities of the soil, and the same would apply to the farmer who must know perfectly well that though the improvements were the result of his work and not due to the inherent capabilities of the soil there would be difficulty in proving it, and there would be a risk of litigation. He proposed to add at the end of the sub-section words which would re-insert the words of the Act of 1900—the words "inherent capabilities of the soil." If this sub-section was retained that would insure the purpose he had in view, and he was quite content to achieve his object in that way. Meanwhile he moved the omission of the sub-section.

MR. GARDNER (Berkshire, Wokingham) expressed the opinion that this was a most unfair clause so far as the landlord was concerned. It was quite possible for a farmer who knew the land to estimate what the inherent capabilities of the soil were. It was not right that anyone should be allowed to claim a right to the inherent capabilities of the soil, and if they were to be transferred at all they should be transferred for the benefit of the general public. Supposing a farm was let to be cultivated in the manner in which it had been cultivated for generations. As time went on, the tenant might find that the land would be of greater value if cultivated in a different manner. In such a case surely a tenant ought to have the right to cultivate the land in the best way. He thought these words ought not to be left out, they were easily definable and easily adjusted between a man and his tenant.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 10, to leave out Sub-section (1) of Clause 1."—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out, to the end of page 1, line 17, stand part of the Bill."

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.) said he could not quite understand why the hon. Baronet had moved to leave out this sub-section. With regard to the question of the inherent capabilities of the soil he thought the discussion now taking place was a belated one when they considered what took place during the passage of the Agricultural Holdings Act of 1900. Sir Charles Welby then moved an Amendment with a similar object, but the Government of the day, and the then President of the Board of Agriculture, the right hon. Member for South Dublin, absolutely refused to consider that injustice would be done to the landlord, or to accept the Amendment, and he retained the Bill in the shape it was introduced in the House of Commons. It was quite true that in another place these words were put in, but, in the opinion of the then Government, they were absolutely unnecessary and uncalled for. That was not only the opinion of the Government, but also of Captain Pretyman, who farmed some thousands of acres himself, his view being that they would not affect compensation one way or the other, that the putting in of the words "the inherent capabilities of the soil" would only confuse the minds of the valuers, and that, speaking from a practical standpoint, the words should be omitted. Although not a great landlord like Captain Pretyman, he himself had had some practical experience in these matters, and he agreed with every word uttered by Captain Pretyman in 1900 on this question. Valuers held the same view, and the Central Chamber of Agriculture had emphatically declared against the words "inherent capabilities of the soil" being again introduced. He hoped the Amendment would not be pressed because it was undesirable to re-argue a matter which had been definitely decided in 1900.

*MR. COCHRANE (Ayrshire, N.) said it appeared to him that the hon. Baronet had found himself in a strange and difficult position. He now urged that to insert these words would confuse the minds of the valuers, but the hon. Baronet was somewhat stultifying some previous Acts of his own, because he was one of the promoters of the Scottish Agricultural Holdings Bill which had the whole weight of the late Board of Agriculture behind it.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY said that was purely a Consolidation Bill, not amending but simply codifying existing law.

*MR. COCHRANE said that was an extraordinarily specious argument, but it would not do. The fact of the matter was the hon. Gentleman was in a difficulty. Another name on the back of the Scottish Agricultural Holdings Bill was that of the hon. and learned Attorney-General for Scotland, and if he had for a moment thought that these words bore the interpretation placed upon them by the hon. Gentleman who sat next him, he would not have permitted them to come into any Bill having his name on the back. The real fact was that the hon. Gentleman had been rushed by the private Members behind the Bill. Without consulting the Board of Agriculture they had introduced a hotch-potch Bill dealing with the Game and other laws affecting the agricultural interests, and upsetting the law which had existed for many years, without adequate consideration. The hon. Gentleman had either to bring his own knowledge to bear against that of the promoters of the Bill and to state what was his mind and what was that of the Department he represented, or he had to make some specious excuse in order to accept the point of view of the promoters. He thought his hon. friend, in moving the rejection of this sub-section was perfectly logical and in order. There were only two logical courses to take, either to leave out the whole of the sub-section or so to amend it as to bear out the law which they intended to pass. He thought the best solution of the difficulty was to accept the suggestion of his hon. friend and to leave it out.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. URE, Linlithgowshire) said he did not think that anyone in the House who had the slightest familiarily with the question of the rights of the tenants would support this Amendment. To Scotsmen, at all events, it was sufficient to say in the words of the most eminent authority that they had on this branch of the law—

> "No man can claim for an improvement effected by him what is due to the inherent capabilities of the soil, and in practice the Court has never been asked to deal with such a preposterous claim."

Although that authority might not appeal with great force to English Members, he thought it would certainly carry some weight. He thought the Amendment would afford the landlord no protection whatever and might have the effect of creating some injustice.

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University) said he rose not for the purpose of urging the acceptance of this Amendment, but merely for the purpose of calling attention to the drafting of the sub-section. He had had some experience of trying to make out the meaning of sub-sections of Acts of Parliament from time to time, and this was one of the most extraordinary he had ever read. It spoke of "the first schedule to this Act," but it appeared on examination that it did not mean this Act, but another Act, the Agricultural Holdings Act of 1883. Then, too, he found that the first section of the Act of 1883 was repealed by the first section of the Act of 1900, and now the first section of the Act of 1900 was being repealed by this Bill, and when the first section of the Act of 1900 which repealed the first section of the Act of 1883 was repealed by the first section of this Bill, then he wanted to know what became of the first section of the Act of 1883. He would put another conundrum. How were the improvements to be dealt with which were made before this Act, but not before the principal Act of 1883? They repealed this section, but at the same time said it was to be subject to the Agricultural Holdings Act of 1883 which was called the principal Act. He found in the Act of 1883 very elaborate provisions as to what was to be the commencement of the Act in relation to improvements of ten years before. Did the present Bill deal only with improvements made after it should come into operation or with improvements made before this Act and not before the Act of 1883. These questions did not go to the merit of the Bill but merely to its drafting. He hoped the Government would put their draftsman on the Bill for a few hours, so that the next time it came before the House of Commons it might be in so simple a form that he who ran might read.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir W. ROBSON, South Shields) said the right hon. Gentleman had succeeded in putting very humorously what were not uncommon difficulties in all legislation by reference. He thought the clause was open to some of the objections to legislation by reference, but that it was on the whole simpler than most cases where this course was adopted.

SIR E. CARSON: No wonder we grow rich!

SIR W. ROBSON said what the clause did was to repeal and re-enact and that was precisely the method which was adopted by those who objected to legislation by reference. That was what this clause did, and thus it gave rise to the apparent absurdities to which the right hon. Gentleman had referred. The Act of 1900 was not repealed entirely. What was desired was to make an alteration in sub-section (1) of that Act, and therefore, sub-section (1) was repealed and another sub-section substituted for it in this Bill. This was a measure in which in future would be read the Act of 1900 with the Amendments in this Bill. The references to the Act of 1883 in the section were perfectly proper. The section said that the provisions of this Bill were to be subject not merely to the Act of 1900 but to the principal Act of 1883. He did not think the Government draftsman would be able to make a better job of the Bill unless the expedient of a consolidating and codifying Act were adopted. That course, however, could not be pursued in every case if time were to be economised.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping) said he had no wish to lose himself in the mazes of the law. So far as he knew, the difficulties alluded to by the Solicitor-General and other legal Members might not be apparent to laymen such as himself. But the laymen, who were generally the owners of the property in such cases as they were now discussing, if they were not aware of the difficulties, were painfully aware of the injustice inflicted by this Bill. The Solicitor-General for Scotland had made perfectly plain the difficulty into which they had been landed by making this Bill apply to both England and Scotland. He did not wish to argue the question of the inherent capabilities of the soil. He would take the case of land near a large town, which for years had been farmed by the tenant under the ordinary system of rotation of crops. As the town increased in size the tenant discovered that a fortune might be made by growing vegetables or fruit. In his opinion it was most unfair that the whole characteristics of the farm should be altered without the consent of the landlord. The landlord knew what the soil was capable of producing, and he might be in a position to advise his tenant that he would be wrong if he tried to establish a market garden upon certain land. If the tenant went on with his plan against the advice of his landlord, was it right in case he did not succeed that he should charge his landlord with a large amount as compensation when the whole of the money had been laid out against the landlord's advice and knowledge? Such a proceeding would be grossly unfair, because the owner or his agent was much better acquainted with the capabilities of the soil than the tenant. He should therefore support the Amendment.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.) said he listened with astonishment to the Solicitor-General's defence of the draftsmanship of the Bill. The hon. and learned Gentleman unfortunately would not be available to assist the unlucky agriculturists all over the country who if this Bill passed would be called on to try and understand its terms. Although he was familiar with the Acts of 1883 and 1900 it took him some time to understand what was the intention of the promoters of the present Bill. The whole object of the sub-section was to get rid of the words, "the inherent capability of the soil," and his hon. friends desired that they should be retained. What the promoters of the Bill had lost sight of was that in 1900 the opinion he held, and which he gave expression to, as to the accurate description of the effect of these words was not shared by a great many other Members, who resisted his suggestion and held that the excision of these words from the Statute would have a serious effect. The result was that the words were inserted in another place, and the Amendment accepted when the Bill came back to this House. During the six years that had passed there had not been one single instance where the retention of the words had caused either doubt or difficulty, and he submitted that the experience of those six years justified the action taken by his hon. friends. Their view was shared by many practical agriculturists in and out of the House. His view in 1900 was what it was now, namely, that whether these words were inserted or not no practical valuer who was called upon to deal with valuations of agricultural improvements effected by tenants could by any possibility exclude from his purview what was due for the cultivation of the soil according to the agreement of the tenant. Two distinct operations were performed by the tenant. He took his farm under an agreement which imposed certain obligations, one of which was to pursue a system of good husbandry or a system in accordance with the custom of the district, and in return the tenant got the land for a particular rent. It was the custom of the tenant to spend a certain amount of money upon improvements, but the mere farming of the land was a part of the condition upon which the tenant farmer received the farm at a particular rent. If the tenant did not enter into that undertaking the question of rent would at once have been materially altered. If the tenant was a good farmer he would go beyond his agreement, speculate and put capital into his farm, often with beneficial results. There were many farmers possessing intelligence, industry and foresight, who spent money upon the land from which no good result had followed and for which the tenant had no claim at all for compensation. Therefore he believed the promoters of the Bill would do well not to lay so much importance on the retention of the words, or to embark in such complicated legislation for so small a result.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport) reminded the House that during the discussion on the Bill of 1883, introduced by a Liberal Government, the late Lord Herschell most emphatically endorsed those words as words that should be in the Bill, and that opinion was corroborated by the united opinion of those responsible for the introduction of that measure. When they were asked to consider this Bill as merely a re-echo of the Bill of 1900 he had a right to remind the Liberal Party of what was the opinion of their chief lawyer when the subject first came under the consideration of Parliament. As regarded this particular Amendment he had no very strong feeling. He quite realised that valuers probably did not take into account the inherent capabilities of the soil, but was it not possible that valuers when they saw the provision was taken out might think it was a direct instruction that they should take improvements due to those capabilities into consideration? He thought they should correct the subsection by re-introducing those words, because they were, to a certain extent, a safeguard.

MR. ABEL SMITH (Hertfordshire, Hertford) said he was afraid that the leaving out of those words might be taken by the valuers in a wrong sense in adjudicating upon what was really the property of the owner of the soil. He was one of those who had never been able to understand why people should have any difficulty in understanding what these words meant. The meaning was perfectly clear. The "inherent capabilities of the soil" was the fertility of the soil which might hitherto have been lying latent. It was the property of the owner of the soil, to secure which possibly he had paid £40, £50, or even £100 per acre. It was the only means by which the owner could secure any return for the capital he laid out in purchasing the land. What was the occupier of the land who made improvements by his skill and labour entitled to? So long as he remained in occupation of the land he enjoyed the results of the improvements he had made, and when his tenancy was determined he was justly entitled to be compensated for the labour and capital which he had expended, and which he had not enjoyed to the full. If they left out the words, "inherent capabilities," it might result in the outgoing tenant receiving compensation out of all proportion to the labour and money which he had expended in bringing the latent fertility to fruition. A clear distinction was drawn years ago by Sir John Lawes, the greatest authority on these questions, between the condition of the land as left and its natural fertility. The outgoing tenant was not entitled to compensation for what Sir John Lawes called the natural fertility of the soil, which in the case of agricultural land was something the owner had paid for. He impressed upon the promoters of the Bill that it would be much more satisfactory, and that it would save a great deal of time if this sub-section were left out altogether. By retaining the words, "inherent capabilities of the soil" they would have been much more likely to secure fair dealing in these matters.

*MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) said he only wanted to add a concrete instance of what might be the probable effect of rejecting this Amendment and retaining the clause as it now stood. His right hon. and gallant friend the Member for the Newport Division of Shropshire had said that the effect of cutting out the words "the inherent capabilities of the soil" from the Statute Book must give the impression to a valuer or arbitrator that the inherent capabilities of the soil were intended by this House to be the property of the tenant. He would take a case which frequently happened. A farmer rented some land at say £1 an acre. Part of it he decided to turn, with the permission of the landlord, into a market garden. He expended £50 an acre in so doing, and it would not be at all improbable that he would increase the annual value of the land to as much as £7, £8, or £10 an acre. When he went he would be entitled to compensation at the rate of twenty or twenty-five years purchase on the increase. Working that out on ten acres he would get compensation under this section amounting to £1,500, whereas his total expenditure on the land was only £500. That would almost certainly occur if these words were deliberately cut out of the Statute. He hoped the promoters of the Bill would see their way to cut out the sub-section. He should not have stood out much for putting in the words "inherent capabilities of the soil" if they were not on the Statute-book already, but as they were there they ought to keep them there.

Mr. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) moved that the Question be now put.

*__Mr. SPEAKER__: I think the House is now prepared to come to a decision on the Amendment.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 226; Noes, 74. (Division List No. 167.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Boland, John
Brace, William
Bright, J. A.
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh.)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, CH (Sussex, E. Grinst'd)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harrington, Timothy
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe
Higham, John Sharp
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N)
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leomisnter
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marnham, F. J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r

Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon,N
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps,J Wynford (Pembroke
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C.E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Price, Robert John (Norfolk,E.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson,SirG. Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A H (AsthonunderLyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, J. Cathcart (Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whiteley, George (York,W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton
Woodhouse, Sir J. (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Winfrey and Mr. Soares.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,RtHnSir Alex.F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt. Hn. Sir H
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A.J(City Lond
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Barrie, H. T.(Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. MichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Faber, George Denison (York)
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(Bury S.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley(Staff'sh.)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway,Rt. Hn. Sir John H
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon. Col.W
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col.AR
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Percy, Earl
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith,Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith,F.E. (Liverpool,Walton)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Walker, Col.W.H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson,A.Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Frederick Banbury and Viscount Turnour.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY moved to add to the end of sub-section (1) the words, "desirous of farming in accordance with the custom of the country." He thought he could make clear to the House that there was substance and reason in his Amendment. He would support it by a reference to a case which occurred on his own estate. As the clause stood compensation might be awarded to the outgoing tenant for improvements he had made to such amount as fairly represented the value of the improvments to the incoming tenant. It was quite conceivable that a specialised tenant, farming on particular lines, might have effected improvements which would be useless to another tenant who farmed according to the ordinary conditions of husbandry. In fact, instead of improvements, they might be to the incoming tenant a detriment. He wanted to argue that it was impossible in fairness and equity to say that where a tenancy was determined, the landlord in order to get a new tenant should ask for a tenant who would carry on the same system of farming as had been carried on by the outgoing tenant. In his own experience a tenant had gone in for the breeding of thoroughbred racing stock, and the long rows of loose boxes for the reception of stallions and brood mares were of little or no use to the incoming tenant who wished to farm according to the ordinary custom of that part of the country. The sum to be paid as compensation to the outgoing tenant for improvements was fixed by arbitration at approximately £1,500. But he was not particularly anxious to find another tenant who would devote himself to the same line of business, and the land reverted under the new tenant to the ordinary agricultural system of the district. He found, however, that it would be unfair to charge the new tenant a larger sum than £500 for the advantages of the specialised improvements made by the outgoing tenant, and so he practically lost £1,000. Hon. Gentlemen who were really desirous of maintaining and benefiting the system of agriculture which went to increase the fertility of the soil and increase the employment of labour on the land must not expose landowners to the danger of having to deal with this exceptional, specialised kind of farming, but should look at the question from the point of view of the general interests of agriculture and of the country as a whole. Broadly speaking, the farmers of a district were pretty good judges as to how to use their land, and if there had been established a general custom of farming in a particular district, it might be taken for granted that that was the right system. He believed he had established a case for his Amendment, and he hoped it would be accepted in the interest of fair play, of good agriculture, and of supporting the general level of agriculture, and not sacrificing the general level to certain exceptional kinds of farming. The Amendment was perfectly simple. There was no catch about it. It simply ensured that if a farm was vacated it should be farmed in accordance with the custom prevailing in the district.

Lord TURNOUR (Sussex, Horsham) seconded the Amendment, which he thought was worthy of the consideration of the promoters.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 21, after the word 'tenant,' to insert the words 'desirous of farming in accordance with the custom of the county.'"—(*Col. Kenyon-Slaney.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. SOARES sincerely hoped that they might not have a long debate on this Amendment. The landlord was protected under the Bill, because it provided that there should be paid such sum as fairly represented the value of the improvement to the incoming tenant. If the words of the right hon. Gentleman were added, either they would be unnecessary or they would impose a further restriction upon the tenant farmer. It was perfectly obvious that in the interest of the tenant farmer they could not accept the Amendment, which would hamper him.

Mr. LAMBTON (Durham, S.E.) thought the Amendment deserved more consideration than had been given to it. The compensation to be given appeared to be that which would be given to a hypothetical tenant.

***Mr. BRACE** (Glamorganshire, S.) trusted that the Amendment would not be accepted. He looked upon it as a species of obstruction, and as being made to render it impossible to pass the Bill into law in the present session. As he understood it, the proposal was that unless the farm was farmed in accordance with the custom of the district, the tenant would not have the advantage of the improvement which he had made. If there was one industry more than another which had suffered from the want of development through invention it was agriculture. He was not a tenant farmer himself; nor on the other hand had he any interest in wringing out of the tenant farmer anything which fairly belonged to him. ["Who is?"] He did not want to be led into the discussion of a side issue, and although he was not a tenant farmer himself he had some common sense, and was entitled to argue on behalf of those he represented. Because agriculture had not been allowed to make full use of the inventive genius of the race it had suffered. If the Amendment were adopted it would be impossible for a tenant farmer, no matter how able or desirous, to strike out a line for himself without endangering his right to compensation.

LORD HELMSLEY (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) protested against they charge which had been made. The position was a most extraordinary one. A Bill dealing with the most important industry in the country had been brought in by young private Members. They had had only two days discussion, and then when an important Amendment was brought forward they were accused of obstruction in order to defeat the measure and to wring further money out of tenants. It had not been the practice of landlords of this country to wring money out of tenants. When the hon. Member talked about inventive genius he would point out to him the many elaborate machines which were now used in agriculture which he must have seen in his perambulations through his constituency. They objected to giving compensation for something which might be of no good at all as the Bill proposed, and the money paid for which for the purposes of the incoming tenant might as well be thrown into the sea.

*MR. NUSSEY (Pontefract) recognised that the Amendment was moved to meet what might be a genuine grievance under the Bill. To take the extreme case of a stud farm, given by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Newport Division, it would no doubt be difficult to find an incoming tenant to whom the alterations made would be of value. The cases taken, however, were extreme and exceptional, and would come under the existing law. The words of the Amendment might, moreover, militate against enterprise and industry. For these reasons he felt great difficulty in supporting the Amendment, though he recognised the motives underlying it. He thought it would come better in Clause 7, where he had put down an Amendment of a similar character so as to allow full liberty for the enterprise of the tenant while maintaining the characteristics of the holding. He would like to see a farmer have full liberty to make what improvements he liked, but at the same time he thought it would be hard for a man who let a farm for one purpose to have returned to him at the end of the tenancy a farm of quite a different character. Therefore, although he could not support this Amendment, he believed it was moved with the idea of meeting a real difficulty. The Bill went much farther than any previous Act and was promoted in favour of a particular class connected with the industry, and that being so, the House ought to look to all the classes concerned in that industry. Their interests were more or less indentical, whether they were landlords, future tenants, or sitting tenants, and they centred in the better cultivation of the land.

*SIR H. AUBREY-FLETCHER said he rose to support the Amendment of his hon. friend, but he doubted whether he should have intervened at all had it not been for the speech of the hon. Member for South Glamorgan, who represented that portion of Glamorgan in which he himself was a considerable landed proprietor. He had brought a charge against the landlord party and his hon. friend of endeavouring to wring money out of the occupying tenants. He would only deal with the county of Glamorgan. He thought he ought to do so in justice to the tenantry who occupied lands on the Aubrey Estate in Glamorgan. He did not claim to have one thousand agricultural tenants on his property, which consisted of 8,000 or 9,000 acres in the hon. Member's constituency, but he had a considerable number. He did not think that in any portion of Glamorgan there was any wish among agricultural tenants for a change in the tenure on which they now held. He would remind the House that some years ago there was a land agitation and a Land Commission in South Wales, but no portion of the tenants in Glamorgan would have anything to do with the agitation, because they were satisfied with the terms of their agreements. The Amendment of his hon. friend provided that the farm should be carried on in accordance with the custom of the country. In the portion of the country to which he alluded the custom was very simple and he did not think the tenants had any wish to alter it. They were thriving and industrious, and they were enabled by their industry to pay their rents with great promptitude. He was sure they had no wish for any change. He thought he was justified on behalf of his friends who were large landowners in the county of Glamorgan in repudiating what the hon. Member had said with regard to tenants having money wrung out of them. He did not wish to go into personal matters and would merely say that in fifteen years he had spent some £20,000 for the benefit of the tenancies.

Mr. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) said that in Committee this clause was discussed fully, and with a singular amount of freedom, and he did not think that either those who represented the landlords or those who represented the tenants very strongly opposed the clause. In his opinion it was not wise in the interests of agriculture that tenants should be tied up too tightly by their agreements. He thought they needed to have some freedom and initiative as regarded the cultivation of the land. The purposes for which the farm was to be used was very much determined by the character of the buildings and that was a matter which was left to the discretion of the owner by this Bill. [Dissent.] He thought it was, but if it was found when Clause 7 was discussed that the repairs did not mean "repairs" but reconstruction, he would be very glad to join in making it clear that the owner should have full discretion as to the character of the buildings. If he was right, the buildings, fences, roads, and so forth, permanent fixtures, remained in the discretion of the owner, and that was a great security against the whole character of the holding being changed without his consent. Therefore he thought it was not necessary to discuss some of these points at length. It was of course impossible to discuss the clause without having an eye on all the other clauses, but he thought each clause as it came should be discussed on its merits. In his opinion this clause was in the interest of agriculture and should be so regarded.

*Mr. GEORGE FABER (York) felt quite sure that most Members were in favour of a genuine farmer obtaining compensation for genuine improvements that he had made. What they wished to guard against was paying for unnecessary improvements made by what he would call, for want of a better term, a fancy farmer. And this became more apparent when they looked at Clause 7. Under the law as it stood at present the planting of fruit trees did require the consent of the landlord, but under this Bill as drawn that consent was not required. Let him put a case. A tenant of a speculative turn of mind took a farm of 200 acres, and thinking part of it was suitable for fruit farming, laid down at a cost of £60 an acre 20 acres of that farm to fruit. When he left the farm the value of the improvement might be nothing. In fact the landlord might find it difficult to get a tenant who wanted 20 acres of fruit trees on the farm. Was that an improvement for which the landlord ought to pay compensation? Did they not rather desire to encourage genuine improvements of the land of the farm? Looking at the matter from that point of view, he agreed with the Amendment, because he believed it tended in that direction. If the House did not find itself able to accept the Amendment, he agreed with the hon. Member for Durham that the best course would be to change the word "an" to "the," which would have the effect of removing the difficulty of arriving at the value of the improvement. The value of the improvement to "an incoming tenant" was a problematical value, because no tenant might be found, whereas the value to the "incoming tenant" was real. Therefore, if they substituted the word "the" for the word "an" they would shut out and guard against the possibility of the landlord paying for an improvement which might not only be of no use, but possibly be harmful to him.

MR. SOARES rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 270; Noes, 68. (Division List No.168.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson ,Alfred
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brace, William
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir JohnT.(Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, CH(Sussex,(E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cowan, W. H.
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles:Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Duncan, Robert Lanark, Govan
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harrington, Timothy
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hogan, Michael
Hope, W. Bateman(Somerset, N
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, HughCecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Leese, SirJoseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M(Falkirk Burghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marnham, F. J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas.N.(Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)

O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, J Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, F. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert J. (Norfolk, E.)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mptn
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A H (Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn A Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, J. Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarthen
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Hn. C.H.W. (Hull, W)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Soares and Mr. Winfrey.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn Sir Alex. F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J. (City Lond
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick Gerorge
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Faber, George Denison (York)
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. R.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Whitbread, Howard
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Colonel Kenyon - Slaney and Mr. Courthope.

Question put accordingly, "That those words be inserted in the Bill."

The House divided:—Ayes, 67; Noes, 269. (Division List No. 169.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lon.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Hn. Guy (Winchester)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur

Bridgeman, W. Clive
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Captain James (Down E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Fletcher, J.S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
O'Neill, Hn. Robert Torrens
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Colonel Kenyon-Slaney and Mr. Courthope.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brace, William
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cameron, Robert
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cowan, W. H.
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander
Crossley, William J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galw'y
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dillon, John
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Glendinning, R. G
Glover, Thomas
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harrington, Timothy
Hart-Davies, T.
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hogan, Michael
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominst'r
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Luddon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick

Manfield, Harry (Northants.)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marnham, F. J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mptn
Ridesdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartons'ire
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh., N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Woodhouse, Sir J. T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Soares and Mr. Winfrey.

MR. ABEL SMITH (Hertfordshire, Hertford) moved to leave out sub-section (2). This sub-section substituted for the procedure laid down in the Agricultural Holdings Act of 1900 an entirely new arrangement which made it compulsory in the event of arbitration under the Agricultural Holdings Act for the reference to be to a single arbitrator. The principal object of the Act of 1900 was to make the procedure under previous Acts more simple and less expensive, and it would be generally admitted by those who had had practical experience that that object had been attained. No doubt the promoters of the present Bill would claim that this sub-section would carry the object further by the substitution of a single arbitrator. How were these arbitrations carried out under present arrangements? The Act of 1900 required that the arbitration, unless the parties otherwise agreed, should be by a single arbitrator, so that either party concerned could, if he liked, insist on having a single arbitrator. He believed agriculturists very much preferred that that arrangement should continue, and he ventured to think there were very good grounds for holding that view. He was sorry the representative of the Board of Agriculture was not at the moment in the House, because hon. Gentlemen would remember that only a short time ago the hon. Baronet referred to the representative character of the Central Chamber of Agriculture, and said that anything the Chamber expressed should have great weight. When this particular matter came up for discussion at the Central Chamber of Agriculture, a Resolution was carried *nem. con.* objecting to this sub-section. The present arrangement was considered to be satisfactory, but in the case of a single arbitrator each party must have a representative or advocate to present his case to the arbitrator. The landlord probably had his agent who might or might not be a gentleman learned in the law, and it was absolutely necessary for the outgoing tenant who was the other party to have some expert gentleman to advise him and get up his case. In other words, there would be three experts engaged on the work. Where, however, each party appointed an arbitrator, a third person was only called in as umpire in any matter on which the arbitrators could not agree. The result was that in a great many cases the umpire was never called in, and therefore only two experts had to be paid for instead of three, as would always be the case if the system of a single arbitrator were made compulsory. One of the most experienced valuers in the country had written stating his agreement with the view which he was now putting forward. A preponderating number of farmers' associations in the country had expressed themselves perfectly satisfied with the present arrangement, and against their freedom of action being taken away by its being made compulsory for a single arbitrator to be appointed in each case. He therefore moved the omission of this sub-section.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) seconded the Motion, because he thought this was one of those questions in which it was very desirable the House should see that this Bill was in accordance with the opinion of those interested, and also in accordance with true economy. On neither of those grounds did he think any defence could be made for the retention of this sub-section. So far as the opinion of the tenants themselves was concerned, and putting aside the question of the landlords, who, he was afraid, were not often mentioned in debates on this Bill, he would point out that his hon. friend had given a good deal of evidence against this proposal, and they might justly ask the promoters of this Bill to bring forward proof that the tenants were desirous of obtaining this sub-section. So far as he had been able to ascertain an opinion—and it was very much confirmed by the reports that had come to the Central Chamber of Agriculture from farmers' clubs—the tenants did not look upon this provision with either enthusiasm or interest, but, in fact, they very much preferred the present system. That being so, they ought to have very strong proof that the system proposed to be substituted was a better one before making the change. As to the question of economy, he had not been able to ascertain any views to show that this proposal would effect economy. First of all the single arbitrator would have to be quite a different type of person to the arbitrators at present appointed. He would have to be appointed more or less officially, and he would become something in the nature of a County Court Judge, a man set apart who would have to be paid either out of rates or taxes. Before him would appear the experts who would represent the landlord and the tenant. There was very little prospect in a country district of one man being mutually appointed by landlord and tenant to decide on these questions. Each party in almost every case liked to have his own view put forward. As a rule mutual compromise came in, and the result was very easy to arrive at without much expense under the present system. The establishments of a sort of court, on the other hand, might lead to further persons being introduced into the proceedings, because instead of his agent being employed the landlord very probably would have a legal gentleman to advise. Instead, therefore , of simplicity and economy it would mean the establishment of a land court and an increase of expenditure.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 22, to leave out sub-section (2) of Clause 1."—(*Mr. Abel Smith.*)

Question proposed: "That the words proposed to be left out, to 'contract' in page 1, line 24, stand part of the Bill."

*MR. SOARES sincerely hoped that the gloomy forebodings of the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down would not be realised. The whole sub-section was really a very simple one; it raised only one small question and that was the appointment of a single arbitrator in all cases. He might point out that sub-section (5) of Clause 2 of the Act of 1900 provided that an arbitration should, unless the parties otherwise agreed, be before a single arbitrator. All that this sub-section did was to omit the words "unless the parties otherwise agree." Already it was conceded that a single arbitrator, whenever possible, was advisable. He might say that the Board of Agriculture was strongly in favour of this sub-section, and as that Department had a large knowledge of procedure its opinion was surely worth having on this matter. The system of two arbitrators did not work out well so far as the Board of Agriculture was concerned. When it was a question of two arbitrators the Board had power to make the appointment in default of one of the parties making it. It found that when it made the appointment the man appointed did not act in the capacity of a judicial personage, but more as an advocate, and what was wanted was a judicial personage to act as far as possible. A Scottish case came under the notice of the Board of Agriculture a short time ago in which several points of procedure were raised. One was whether the arbitration should be governed by the Agricultural Holdings Act or by the agreement in the lease, and another point was whether the arbitration should take place before a single arbitrator or two arbitrators. There was great delay in dealing with the matter, and an application was made to the Board, and before the Board could finish the necessary correspondence and make the appointment considerable further delay was occasioned. Then the landlord took proceedings in the Court of Session, and compensation was not obtained until nearly two years after the application was made to the Board. The tenant had to pay £156 for landlord's costs, and upwards of £200 for his own solicitor's costs. That was the kind of thing they wanted to avoid in the future. They wanted to simplify the procedure, and they thought the appointment of an arbitrator would do that, because as the case he had mentioned showed, there was often a difficulty as to whether on the facts of the case there ought to be one arbitrator or two. There could be no doubt that with two arbitrators the possibility of technical points being raised was increased, and there were also more risks of mistake in procedure, and in that case the whole arbitration was liable to be vitiated. If there was a single arbitrator his *status* would be improved. He would become more of a judicial personage, and his sense of responsibility would be increased. Of course it would not prevent an amicable arrangement being made between landlord and tenant as at present. It would be only when they found that they could not come to terms that the case would come before the single arbitrator. With regard to the saving of expense, on which he put a great deal of emphasis, obviously there must be a saving to have one instead of two arbitrators. For the reasons he had given he sincerely hoped the House would retain the sub-section.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY: Will the hon. Gentleman give us some evidence of the desire on the part of tenants for the sub-section?

MR. GARDNER (Berkshire, Wokingham) said the hon. Member in charge of the Bill had called this a very small question, but there might be much mischief in a small thing. The first paragraph in the memorandum to the Bill stated that its object was to extend, cheapen, and simplify the law of compensation, etc. How it could be said to cheapen or simplify the law passed his comprehension. This Bill was full of opportunities for litigation and controversy, and, indeed, invited them, and if anything could add to the cost of the troubles that were certain to arise it was this sub-section. It made compulsory one method of deciding disputes between persons engaged in agriculture. What farmers feared was the amount of costs in dealing with their business. The hon. Member in charge of the Bill had said that landlord and tenant could amicably settle any questions that arose. On the termination of a tenancy they were bound to be represented by someone. The statement by one hon. Member that he was under the impression that the Government proposed to get a higher class of arbitrators was some reflection on the arbitrators and valuers who at present conducted the business. The arbitrators in his county, and he believed in most other parts, were perfectly competent to settle any disputes. The proposal to have one arbitrator appeared a very simple thing, but it was well known that it would cost tenant farmers and landlords a great deal more and involve more trouble. So far as he could gather the only persons who would get any benefit out of the Bill were lawyers, arbitrators, and expert witnesses. There was quite enough to contend with in agriculture at present, but if they were to have a crowd of that class of persons let loose upon them he did not know what agriculture would come to. They were to have a high class of arbitrator. He should like to know how many guineas a day he was to receive. Possibly he would come from the Board of Agriculture, and what would he know of the customs of the different counties? He would need to have expert evidence before him, and the experts would be likely to charge more than if they were working quietly between landlord and tenant. Customs in the counties differed so widely that an arbitrator coming from a distance would be forced to have local persons to advise him, and these would have to be examined and cross-examined by other expensive persons. The existing state of things had worked practically without any difficulty or friction. They appointed between them an umpire who was seldom called in. He had it on the authority of a large agent that an umpire was called in only in about one case in fifteen.

*COLONEL HARRISON-BROADLEY (Yorkshire, E.R., Howdenshire) said that as the representative of one of the largest agricultural constituencies, and as one who represented perhaps as many farmers and agriculturists as any man in the House, he thought he ought to be allowed to say a word or two on the question. There was a feeling that the clause had nothing in it except that which would cause ill-feeling and expense, and also the calling in of those who were not interested in the greatest industry of the country. He had had many communications and conversations with agriculturists since the Bill was first brought forward, and everyone who knew agriculturists and farmers had all been of the opinion that Sub-section (2) of Clause 1 should be left out. They did not know whether the arbitrators were to be men of the county in which the farm was situated, and who would thus become acquainted with the custom of the county; but at the present time they certainly had no trouble whatever in settling matters between the outgoing and incoming tenants, and he considered it would do the greatest injury if they went outside the county and took in men appointed by the Board of Agriculture to settle the question. He had great pleasure in supporting the Amendment.

*MR. EVERETT (Suffolk, Woodbridge) said he found himself in agreement with hon. Gentlemen opposite, and he believed his friends in regard to this sub-section had made a mistake. There was not the smallest desire on the part of the farmers for any alteration in the present method of arbitration when farms changed hands. The landlord and the tenant chose representatives who were familiar with the nature of the land and the local customs. They went over the farm, and they generally arrived at a satisfactory settlement. If necessary, they referred to an umpire, but that was a comparatively rare occurrence. The present method of conducting valuations entirely satisfied farmers, and it was as cheap as any mode which might be conceived. The proposed sub-section would bring in the thin end of officialism. They did not want anyone from the Board of Agriculture interfering with their decisions. There was a great deal of good work which Parliament could do, but surely it should not interfere where there was no occasion, and he was sure both the farmers and landlords of the county from which he came wished they would leave them alone as regards their methods of making valuations.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.) said he wished to ask a question with regard to the construction of the clause. Some remarks on this point had been made on the first sub-section, but it seemed to him that the construction and drafting of the second sub-section was far more serious than the first. He should like an explanation of what was meant by "this Act." Did the words mean the present Bill? The hon. Member for the Barnstaple Division said it was intended to mean the Agricultural Act, 1900, and that this section was inserted in place of the section which had been repealed. He was under the impression that they were talking about the Agricultural Holdings Acts, 1883 and 1900. He did not know what was meant by the Agricultural Acts, 1883 and 1900, and as a matter of fact there were no such Acts. He understood what was meant by the Agricultural Holdings (England) or (Scotland) Act. He did not think the words "this Act" could be construed as meaning the Act of 1900.

MR. SOARES: Those words mean this Bill.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON thought that in that case the House was entitled to some explanation of why in the first sub-section "this Act" meant the Act of 1900 and why in the second sub-section the same words meant the Bill under discussion. Did the hon. Member still adhere to that position?

MR. SOARES: Yes.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON said that was all the more reason why they should oppose this proposal.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON said there was nothing in the Bill which would lead them to suppose that the Board of Agriculture would send down an arbitrator who was not conversant with the district. In Scotland they were supposed to be very careful in their expenditure, and he might point out that the system of appointing one valuator in Scotland had grown up very much in consequence of that national desire to save unnecessary cost, and also to obtain better justice.

*LORD TURNOUR (Sussex, Horsham) said as a tenant farmer perhaps he might be allowed to say a few words on this sub-section. In the first instance he heartily agreed with everything that had fallen from the hon. Member for the Woodbridge division. He thought it a somewhat remarkable thing that Mr. Pretyman, who formerly represented that division, was a strong opponent of this principle, and that the hon. Gentleman who now represented the division—and who probably looked at the question from a wholly different point of view—was also a strong opponent. It seemed, indeed, to be a strong argument against the sub-section remaining as it was at the present time. It seemed to him that it would merely put upon agriculture a greater burden than that which it had to carry at the present time. He sincerely hoped those in charge of the Bill would note what had been said, and especially to what had fallen from the hon. Member for the Woodbridge Division. No doubt the promoters of the Bill, in drafting the clause, had excellent intentions, but he could only think it would put an even greater burden upon agriculture than that industry carried at the present time, and it seemed to him that the whole clause might have been drawn by an economist of the Poplar guardian type.

MR. WALTER LONG said they desired to lay down the principle that a single arbitrator should be the preferable course to adopt and that only in the event of a person desiring to have two arbitrators should that procedure be adopted. The proposal in the Bill was that one arbitrator only should be appointed. The hon. Member for Leith Burghs had said that for reasons of economy they preferred in Scotland to have one arbitrator, but it was manifest that in England and Wales they did not prefer that system. Under the Act of 1900 it was laid down that the arbitration was to be before a single arbitrator if the parties agreed on that course. It was only when the landlord and tenant agreed that there should not be a single one that two arbitrators were called in. The farmers of England and Wales did not desire a system which was contrary to their present practice. Nothing had been said to justify interference with the British tenant farmer in carrying on his own business in his own way.

*MR. BERTRAM (Hertfordshire, Hitchin) thought the clause effected a distinct saving of a step, and, therefore, he should support it. Under existing law when the tenant vacated his holding he and the landlord each appointed a valuer. If these failed to agree arbitrators were appointed, and the two valuers almost invariably became the two arbitrators. Agreement being still impossible these two appointed an umpire, and if they could not agree upon him the Board of Agriculture appointed the umpire. Under the clause now proposed the umpire disappeared, his place being filled by the single arbitrator, and a saving of one step in the existing process of valuation was thereby effected.

*MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) said that when the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill made his speech in opposition to the Amendment he used an expression the meaning of which he thought he did not quite realise, viz., that a single arbitrator would be a judicial personage. That was so, and it was just because he would be a judicial personage that it would be necessary for both parties to have somebody to represent them before him. The result of that would be that there would be three to be paid for instead of, as was usually the case at present, two only, for in the majority of cases under the existing law an agreement was come to, and the expense of an umpire, or third arbitrator, avoided. He thought, therefore, even according to their own arguments, those who supported the Bill should realise that it would be better for this sub-section to be struck out.

MR. CAWLEY (Lancashire, Prestwich) was of opinion that the Bill would be improved by the acceptance of the Amendment. The promoters had not attempted to prove that anyone had urgently demanded the alteration, and the present law appeared to be giving satisfaction to everybody. No one could say that the tenants had a grievance and everybody liked the present procedure. Why, therefore, should the House be asked to sanction a new procedure to displace one which had proved so eminently satisfactory? He thought his hon. friend would be wise if he accepted the Amendment.

*MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) said that the hon. Member for Barnstaple had argued that the principle of the single arbitrator was accepted in 1900, but he had ignored the stipulation that it should be departed from if the two parties did not agree to it. The Act of 1900 was very different from this Bill, because what the arbitrator had to decide under that Act was only in regard to improvements to the soil. Under this Bill, however, the arbitrator had to decide as to the value of certain improvements made in the soil itself, whether the game had done harm to the crops, whether the buildings had been so altered and transformed as to be of any real value to the holding, and other matters. The arbitrator would also have to be a person with a judicial mind, because he would have to decide whether a disturbance had been reasonable or unreasonable. He thought the Board of Agriculture would have great difficulty in securing persons of this extraordinary character, and they would have to pay them large fees for their services. He agreed that what the farmers wanted on this occasion was not such proposals as these; but, as a witness had remarked before the Royal Commission on Agriculture in 1897, "the only security they wanted was security from the law makers."

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) thought the Amendment would effect some slight improvement in the working of the Bill. It would be advisable if his hon. friends, the promoters of the Bill, would sacrifice the provision now in question in deference to the wishes of the farmers of the country, who were distinctly opposed to the alteration in the existing law. The question was discussed by the Central Chamber of Agriculture, and it appeared then that the farmers were opposed to any change in the law.

MR. SEDDON (Lancashire, Newton) said the hon. Member in charge of the Bill would be well advised if he made the sub-section more stringent. The right hon. baronet the Member for the Lewes Division had said that the tenant farmers in Glamorganshire were satisfied, and did not wish any interference between themselves and the landlords. That might be perfectly true so far as South Glamorgan was concerned, but it was not so with respect to other parts of the country. The right hon. baronet's speech reminded him of the Chinese coolies who asked to be flogged in order to prove how beneficial were the conditions under which they lived in South Africa. According to the right hon. baronet no improvement was possible, and any effort at improvement would be repudiated so far as South Glamorgan was concerned. He had in his hand an agreement made in Lancashire which proved conclusively, so far as that county was concerned, that the landlords had certainly not only been able to look after themselves, but had taken good care that the tenant should be robbed of his rights. [" No."] He was going by the agreement which laid down the condition that the tenant should live in the farmhouse. [" Read."] A condition of the agreement was that the tenant should live in the farmhouse and keep it in a state of repair. The hon. and gallant Member for the Newport division of Shropshire would have the House to believe that if a tenant put up all manner of buildings, especially for the breeding of race-horses, compensation could be claimed in respect of them whether the incoming tenant wanted them or not. That was not the meaning of the clause. What the clause was intended to secure to the tenant farmer was compensation for unexhausted improvements. There could be no doubt that many of the tenant farmers of this country were subject to the caprice, and sometimes the political bias, of their landlords.

Mr. GUEST (Cardiff District) asked whether the hon. Gentleman was in order in discussing the whole field of the Bill, or whether he should discuss the sub-section only.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The sub-section only. The hon. Member is rather tending towards a Second Reading speech. He must confine himself to the question of the retention of the particular sub-section.

Mr. SEDDON said he thought that the provision as to the single arbitrator should be compulsory. In his own constituency many tenants had been compelled to leave their homes, and they had refused to accept the offices of the arbitrator, knowing that there was a certain amount of sympathy existing between landlords.

He was not surprised at that after hearing the speeches from both sides of the House to-day. He could quite understand that a tenant who, for political reasons, had offended his landlord, and got notice to quit, should prefer to leave his case in the hands of the landlord, because he knew that the power of that landlord might be used against him when he applied for another holding. [" Oh!"] He knew that home truths were resented by the persons affected. He sincerely trusted that the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill would recognise that the measure was in the interest of a class too long under the power of landlords.

*Captain BALFOUR (Middlesex, Hornsey) said he should not like it to go out that the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture was absolutely in favour of the Bill. He had before him the *Aberdeen Journal* of 16th June containing a Report of a meeting of the Chamber of Agriculture held on the previous day. A proposa to approve of the clause in regard to the single arbitrator gave rise to a good dea of discussion, and an Amendment approving of two arbitrators was carried. He had never heard more irrelevant remarks than those which had fallen from the last speaker. In his part of the country tenants and landlords were not mutual enemies.

Mr. GUEST did not think the Amendment was of very great importance. So far as he could make out it would leave the law very much where it was at the present time. He thought the sub-section might be accepted as it stood. The House was composed partly, on the one hand, of landlords who did know something of agriculture, and, on the other hand, of people who knew nothing whatever of agriculture. He thought that the prejudice of those who knew something of agriculture was better for the Bill than the ignorance of those who knew nothing. It had never been his lot since he came to this House to hear any Member make such accusations or insinuations as had fallen from the hon. Member for the Newton division. The hon. Member had said that the landlords of the country only desired to rob their tenants. He understood him to say that they took good care that the tenant should be robbed of his improvements. He repudiated that statement; he thought it was grossly unfair. Where was the cry against the landlords? [An hon. Member: In Wales.] In what part? In South Glamorgan, with which he was acquainted, there was no difficulty between landlords and tenants. As a body, the landlords were as anxious to improve agriculture as the hon. Gentleman. Speaking for himself, what he felt about the Bill was that it did not go far enough.

MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.) asked whether the hon. Member was in order in not confining himself to the sub-section.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member was answering an attack which was made upon landlords.

MR. GUEST admitted that he had been drawn into the remarks he had made by the attack of the hon. Gentleman. He could not suppose that the hon. Gentleman intended to attack the whole body of landlords.

SIR E. CARSON called attention to the very wide terms of the sub-section as it now stood. He asked the promoters of the Bill whether they really intended what the sub-section stated. In all previous legislation the arbitration had been limited to the question of improvements, but this sub-section was perfectly general. There was no limitation whatever. The sub-section said—

> "All questions which under the Agricultural Holdings Acts, 1883 to 1900, or this Act, or under any custom or contract of tenancy, are to be determined by arbitration shall, notwithstanding any agreement to the contrary, and whether the tenancy commenced before or after passing of this Act, be determined by a single arbitrator in accordance with the provisions set out in Part I. of the Second Schedule to the Agricultural Holdings Act, 1900."

Did the promoters of the Bill mean that any question arising under a tenancy was to go to a single arbitrator whether it referred to improvements or not? It seemed to him that thousands of questions might arise which had no relation to improvements at all.

SIR W. ROBSON said this was not a sub-section to impose on landowners generally the obligation to go to arbitration; it only enacted that all questions, which under the various Acts or agreements were to be determined, should henceforth be determined by a single arbitrator.

SIR E. CARSON said that matters outside questions of compensation might be dealt with by the arbitrator.

LORD WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY (Lincolnshire, Horncastle) said the House had now been debating the sub-section for some time, and only two Members had spoken in its favour. The reason why one Member wished it retained in the Bill was that landlords got a great deal more than they ought to get out of their tenants. In order to prove this the hon. Member said he knew of an agreement which a tenant had signed, one of the conditions of which was that he should reside in the farmhouse and keep it in repair. He himself did not think it was such a terrible thing that a landlord should look for a resident tenant, and not one who would live miles away from the farm, or that the tenant should be required to do the ordinary small repairs to the house. He did not quite gather from the hon. Gentleman's speech on what grounds he wished for one arbitrator instead of two. The hon. Member for the Leith Burghs supported the sub-section because the Scottish farms wanted it. The fact was, as had been stated, that a Motion was carried at the meeting of the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture to the effect that there should be exceptions where more than one arbitrator could be employed.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON said the question of appointing one arbitrator was discussed in relation to two points. There never was any question as to the expediency of having one valuator for improvements under the Agricultural Holdings Acts.

LORD WILLOUGHBY DE ERESBY asked why the Scottish tenants, if they wished to have one arbitrator instead of two, did not avail themselves of the Act of 1900. The hon. Member had referred to the case of sheep farm valuations. There could be no more crying shame than the method in which these valuations were carried out at present. The hon. Member knew perfectly well that the moment it came to a question of large sums of money, perhaps £4,000 or £5,000 one way or the other, people would not consent to go before one arbitrator. He most earnestly asked the promoters of the Bill, in view of the expression of opinion from both sides of the House, to withdraw the sub-section, and allow things to remain as they were now in the matter of arbitration.

Mr. WINFREY rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 312; Noes, 85. Division List No. 170.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork,N.E)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Alden, Percy
Allen,A.Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Som'rst
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexh'm)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,W.(T'w'rH'ml'ts,S. Geo.)
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J.H.(Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon
Billson, Alfred
Black,ArthurW. (Bedfordshire)
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brace, William
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner,Sir John T.(Cheshire)
Bryce,Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce,J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt.Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton,Ht.Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.

Coats,SirT.Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Collins Stephen (Lambeth)
Condon Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,CH(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cowan, W. H.
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies,M.Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galw'y
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson,W.H.(St.PancrasN .
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
Glendinning, R. G.
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Griffith, Ellis
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)

Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r
Harrington, Timothy
Hart-Davies, T.
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John Knutsford)
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea,HughCecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Leese,SirJosephF(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C
Lever,A.Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lundon, W.
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M. (FalkirkB'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)

M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield,H.Rendall(Lincoln)
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Morgan, J.Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps,Col.Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps,J.Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price,Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterf'rd)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson,SirG.Stott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann,Chas.E. (Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant,SirEdward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,Abel (Carmarthen,E.)
Thomas, Sir A.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A.
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Ward, John(Stoke upon Trent
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams,Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Soares and Mr. Winfrey.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Rt HnSir Alex F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon.SirH.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,RtHn.A.J. (City Lond)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir FrederickGeorge
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Beach, Hn. MichaelHughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone,E.)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Courthope, G. Lloyd
Craig,CaptainJames (Down,E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland,Sir FredDixon
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F. (BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.Sir JohnH.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W
Keswick, William
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt. Col.A.R.
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin,S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert

Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J.G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Laurence Hardy and Mr. Abel Smith.

Question put accordingly "That the words proposed to be left out, to the word 'contract,' in page 1, line 24, stand part of the Bill."

The House divided:—Ayes, 292; Noes, 112. (Division List No. 171.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somers't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r H'mlets, S. Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Haldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brace, William
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J.A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas, Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
CarrGomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knig't
Channing, Francis Allston
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cowan, W. H.
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay (Galw'y
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H. (St. Pancas, N.
Dillon, John
Dodd, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J.H. (York, Otley)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Glendinning, R. G.
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r
Harrington, Timothy
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazelton, Richard
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford
Kitson, Sir James
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominst'r
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lundon, W.
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederick C.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael

Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas N. (Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny;
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps, J. Wynford(Pembr'ke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk.E,
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann,Chas.E.(Manchester)
Scott, A.H.(Ashton und' Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James B.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon .John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thos. F. (Leitrim, S.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Tennant, Sir Edward(Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel(Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.
Thomasson, Franklin
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De Rr. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Warde, John (Stoke uponTrent
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, JohnCathcart-Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams,Llewellyn(Carmathen
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJT.(Huddersf'd.
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Soares and Mr. Winfrey.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Armstrong, W. C. Heaton
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hn.SirH.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Beach,Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cochrane, Thos. H. A. E.
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Dixon-Hartland,SirFredDixon.
Duncan,Robert (LanarkGovan
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Erskine, David C.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hedges, A. Paget
Helmsely, Viscount
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley(Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway,Rt.Hn.Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Keswick, William
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nicholson, Wm. G.(Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Partington, Oswald
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Raphael, Herbert
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renton, Major Leslie

Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Snowden, P.
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col, C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Whitbread, Howard
Whitehead, Rowland
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolf, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

*MR. COCHRANE moved to insert "under any" after "or" in Clause 1, sub-section (2), line 4. The Amendment was of very considerable interest in Scotland. It was quite obvious that there were many large tenants who were capable of making any arrangements on a perfectly fair and equal basis with their landlords. All sorts of complicated questions arose under the leases in Scotland. There were often different classes of arbitration such as the valuation of sheep stock, the various forms of cropping, etc. Of course the ordinary way when a valuation was to be made was for each party to appoint an arbitrator, and if they could not agree an oversman was appointed on application to the Sheriff. Under this sub-section as it stood, all the friendly arrangements which had been made between landlord and tenant in Scotland, which had hitherto worked remarkably well, would be knocked on the head. If only a single arbitrator was appointed, a man who knew nothing of the particular forms of agriculture in the east country might be sent from a dairy country, and in like manner a man might be sent from a dairy country to a potato district, or from a potato district to a cattle-feeding district, to deal with valuations. He contended that the best way was to leave landlord and tenant to arrange as to the mode of arbitration. The hon. Gentleman had referred to a meeting of the Scottish Agricultural Society. He knew something of that body, and at that meeting one of the largest farmers in the country, Mr. Hope of Barney Hill, moved an Amendment against a single arbitrator, stating that he did not believe that the farmers of Scotland would be ready to tie themselves down to the clause as it stood. That Resolution was carried by twenty-one to eighteen. He would remind the House that arbitration was only substituting one court for another; and why should these responsible duties be placed in the hands of a man who had no particular training for the work? The sub-section interfered with the custom which had subsisted in Scotland for many years, and the object of his Amendment was to save existing tenancies from the operation of the sub-section where arrangements of a contrary nature had been made.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 24, after the word 'or' to insert the words 'under any.'"—(*Mr. Cochrane.*)

Question proposed, "That these words be there inserted."

MR. SOARES said that the promoters of the Bill were unable to accept the Amendment. He believed that the principle of a single arbitrator would be good both for the tenant and for the landlord, and he utterly failed to see why existing tenants should not have the benefits which were expected to arise under this provision as well as tenants in the future.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY said that those who supported the Amendment desired to maintain existing contracts entirely without a break, and that was, he believed, what 99 per cent. of the tenants desired should be done. ["No, no."] Hon. Gentlemen said "No, no," but he confidently appealed to the two tenant farmers who had spoken to corroborate what he had said. He did not think that there were more than two tenant farmers in the House, but at all events the two who had spoken had expressed themselves strongly in favour of the position he was now taking up. The Chambers of Commerce were all against the proposed change, and if the opinion of the great majority of tenant farmers was taken on the subject he was sure that they would adopt the attitude which the Opposition were taking up.

He personally did not think that this was a question between landlord and tenant. He did not regard it as a landlord question at all. As a landlord himself, he did not regard this measure as of much importance, but he did not think that the tenants were likely to get the results from it which were predicted. After all, the contracts between landlords and tenants had been entered into by reasonable men, with full knowledge on each side of the consequences of their action, and in his opinion nobody could say that in the midland counties, at any rate, the tenants were not able to make these arrangements with the full knowledge of what they meant. He thought, therefore, that the tenants would prefer the arrangements which they themselves had come to, at all events while those arrangements continued in force. In his opinion the measure was not wanted; and it would create a feeling of insecurity on the part of both tenants and landlords.

MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe) was glad to hear that this was not only not a landlord's Bill, but that the hon. Member did think that the tenant farmers had an interest in it. When, however, he considered the debate which had taken place, and the amount of time which had been spent upon the consideration of the Bill in the Committee upstairs, he thought the tenants would appreciate the splendid efforts of their friends in preventing the Bill from becoming law. The Labour Party were sometimes told previous to the last general election that there was a danger that if they were returned they would represent a class interest. The House had had a striking illustration to-day that class interest was not confined to those who represented the Labour Party, but that the landlords were present to represent their own interests and their own class.

*MR. SPEAKER: The subject which the hon. Member is now raising will no doubt lead to many speeches in opposition to his views, and it will be very difficult to stop those speeches, and to keep the debate within the lines of the Bill.

MR. SHACKLETON said he would not pursue the matter further, but he would point out that the Bill was discussed in a very exhaustive manner upstairs, and that it seemed to him that it was a waste of time to raise the same points again and again for the purpose of preventing the Bill from becoming law.

MR. LAMBTON said the hon. Member who had spoken last seemed to forget that there were 670 Members of the House of Commons who were entitled to discuss this matter. Personally he was not a member of the Committee to which the hon. Member had referred, and he was not acquainted with their decisions, and, the matter coming before the House on Report, he did not think they ought to attach too much importance to what had taken place upstairs. The hon. Member had talked about class interest, and of hon. Members representing one class only. It was precisely there that he had made a great mistake in reference to this particular Bill, and he did not think such references were calculated to facilitate the progress of the measure. He had been a landlord for nearly a quart of a century, and in supporting this Amendment he thought he was supporting the interests of the tenants as well as of the landlords. The hon. Member seemed to have forgotten that during the last twenty-five years there had been great depression in agriculture, and that the landlord now had to accept the tenants' terms instead of the tenant having to accept the landlord's terms. Therefore it was useless in these days for anybody to get up and say that a tenant had entered into any agreement contrary to his wishes.

MR. WALTER LONG wished to say a few words in reply to what had been said in regard to the attitude taken by himself and his friends. It was said that they were acting contrary to the interests of the tenant farmers; they were content to leave the tenant farmers to judge of their actions. They did not feel it necessary to take exception to the remarks which had been made except to point out that it was an illustration of the class of opposition to which they were exposed. They on that side were acting in the interests of ninety-nine out of a hundred of occupying tenants and also in the interests of the landlords.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes 93: Noes 301. (Division List No. 172)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt.Hn.Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Beach, Hn. Michael HughHicks
Beale, W, P.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burnyeat, J. D .W.
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, SirFredDixon
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks East,)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hedges, A. Paget
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement(Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Sir Robert Paterson
Kennaway,Rt.Hon.Sir JohnH.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Keswick, William
Kincaid-Smith Captain
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renton, Major Leslie
Ridsdale, E. A.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv
Tennant, Sir Edw. (Salisbury)
Thomson, W.Mitchell- (Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Walker, Col. W.H.(Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B.Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Viscount Valentia and Mr. Forster.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Alden, Percy
Allen, A.Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets, S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, ArthurW.(Bedfordshire
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brace, William
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir JohnT.(Cheshire)
Bryce,J.A.(Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt.Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Channing, Francis Allston
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cowan, W. H.
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Dalziell, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh,S.)
Dickinson, W.H.(St. Pancras,N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorMartin(Walsall)
Edwards,Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Glendinning, R. G.
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)

Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harrington, Timothy
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Healey, Timothy Michael
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knustford)
Kitson, Sir James
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras,E
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy(Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.
M‘Callum, John M.
M‘Crae, George
M‘Kenna, Reginald
M‘Killop, W.
M‘Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M‘Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks, H. Croydon(Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r)
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps,J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central
Price, Robert John (NorfolkE.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Reddy, M.
Redmond,, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rickett, J. Compton
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester
Scott, A. H.(Ashton-und.-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampton
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams,Llewelyn(Carm'rth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull,W.
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton
Wood, T. M‘Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Soares and Mr. Winfrey.

SIR E. CARSON moved to insert after the word "tenants," the words relating to compensation for improvements." He pointed out that the House up to a short time previously was under the impression that this clause was to substitute one arbitrator for the two insisted upon in the previous Act for this purpose, but they had now ascertained that the subsection went much further, and meant that the arbitrator was to deal not only with questions in dispute as to improvements, but with every case of dispute under the agreements which had been entered into. If anybody turned to the Agricultural Holdings Act of 1900 which set up the principle of arbitration, and which this section amended, they would find that that arbitration was to be confined to compensation for improvements. The words of the section of the present Bill were the words of the second section of the Act of 1900, except that the words "compensation for improvements" were left out to make it wider. Unless it was intended to abrogate the rights of landlords and tenants under the agreements entered into, he could not see the reason for this Bill widening that section in this way.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 1, line 54, after the word 'tenancy' to insert the words 'relating to compensation for improvements.'"—(*Sir Edward Carson.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

SIR W. ROBSON said no doubt the subsection did extend the principle of the single arbitrator to all cases in which arbitration was provided for. He thought there was no very essential distinction, so far as the tribunal for dealing with them was concerned, between compensation cases and other cases.

SIR F. BANBURY said the Solicitor-General appeared, like the hon. member for Clitheroe, to be in favour of taking away freedom of contract from everybody, and of setting up a particular class of persons to judge what other people might do. It was monstrous that when two people desired to take a certain course, the hon. member for Clitheroe, or somebody equally ignorant of agricultural matters, should step in and say they should not be allowed to do so.

Mr. SOARES rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put;" but Mr. SPEAKER withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question.

SIR F. BANBURY said that that was an illustration of the manner in which the Bill had been conducted, and he would say no more.

Mr. ABEL SMITH rose to continue the debate, but

Mr. SOARES rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 319; Noes, 85. (Division List, No. 173.)

AYES.

Abraham William, (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott (Somers't
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.(Bedfordshire
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Brace, William
Branch, James
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, J.A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt.HnRichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew,W.)

Sir E. Carson.

Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, CH.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, CharlesRamsay(Galw'y
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,Major E.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harrington, Timothy
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen, W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon.Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jones,David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil(St.Pancras, E.
Leese,Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alphous Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,CharlesN. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps,J.Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C.E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Price, Robert John(Norfolk,E.)
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, SirGScott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester
Scott, A.H. (Ashton-und.-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt.Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.)
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Snowdon, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)

Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Sullivan, Donal
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisb'ry
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomasson, Franklin
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J.D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Llewelyn(Carm'rth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon. C.H.W. (Hull,W.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J.W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJT.(Huddersfi'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Soares and Mr. Winfrey.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn.Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,RtHn.A.J.(City Lond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Hn.MichaelHugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, SirFredDixon
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hardy,Laurence (Kent,Ashf'rd
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F(BurySEdm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt.Hn.Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn.Col.W.
Keswick, William
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Dublin,S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttleton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Pease, HerbertPike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon.Lionel Walter
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford, East)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G(Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Walker, Col.W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put accordingly, "That the words 'relating to compensation for improvements' be there inserted."

The House divided:—Ayes, 88; Noes, 304. (Division List, No. 174).

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon Sir H
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt Hn.A.J(City Lond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach,Hn Michael Hugh Hicks
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone,E)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Captain James(Down,E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland,Sir FredDixon
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry Wiliam
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Haddock, George R.
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hornby, Sir William Henry

Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt. Hon SirJohn H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Keswick, William
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn Lt.-Col, A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter(Dublin, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Pease, Herbert Pike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Remnant, James Farquharson
Ridsdale, E. A.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Tennant, Sir Edward(Salisbury
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E).
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Brace, William
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Charles Ramsay(Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St Pancras, N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harrington, Timothy
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jones, David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John(Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)

Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Markarness, Frederic C.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal, E.)
M‘Crae, George
M‘Kenna, Reginald
M‘Killop, W.
M‘Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M‘Micking, Major C.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks,G Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan,J Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs, Leek)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps,J Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price.C E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Price, Robert John(Norfolk,E.)
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas E. (Manchester)
Scott, A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T.(Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F.(Leitrim,S.)
Snowdon, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Sullivan, Donal
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n.
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wood, T. M‘Kinnon
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Hudd'rsf'd.
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Soares and Mr. Winfrey.

MR. SOARES claimed, "That the Question, 'That the words of the Bill to the end of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill' be now put."

Question put, "That the Question, 'That the words of the Bill to the end of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill' be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 296; Noes, 80. (Division List No. 175.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker,Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.

Benn,W. (T'w'rHamlets,S Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black,Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton,T. D. (Derbyshire,N.E.)
Brace, William
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats,Sir T.Glen. (Renfrew,W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan,C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harmsworth,Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jones,David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras,E.
Leese,Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r)
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps,Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps,J.Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C.E.(Edinburgh,Central
Price,Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n)
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Roberston, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)

Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thos. E. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowdon, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Sullivan, Donal
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hn. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hud'drsf'd
Young, Samuel

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Soares and Mr. Winfrey.

NOES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Nicholson Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Walker, Col W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hn. George
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Question put accordingly, "That the words of the Bill down to the end of Clause 1 stand part of the Bill."

The House divided:—Ayes, 290; Noes, 74. (Division List No. 176.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst

Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilarie Joseph Peter R.
Benn,W.(T’w’rHamlets, S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black,Arthur W.(Bedfordshire)
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire,N.E.
Brace, William
Branch, James
Bright, J. A.
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, SirJohnT.(Cheshire)
Bryce, J. A.(InvernessBurghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew,W.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst’d
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies,M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc’r)
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazleton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil(St.Pancras,E.)
Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lewis, Herbert John
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B’ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M‘Crae, George
M‘Killop, W.
M‘Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M‘Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast’r)
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O’Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O’Brien, William (Cork)
O’Connor,James (Wicklow,W.)
O’Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O’Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O’Doherty, Philip
O’Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O’Grady, J.
O’Hare, Patrick
O’Malley, William
O’Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, Col.Ivor (S’thampton)
Philipps,J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C.E.(Edinburgh,Central)
Price, Robert John(Norfolk,E.)
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh’mpt’n
Rickett, J, Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf’rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.

Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowdon, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Sullivan, Donal
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Llewellyn (Carm'th'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Soares and Mr. Winfrey.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Haddock, George R.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Winsdor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby, de Eresby Lord.
Wilson, Stanley A. (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Hicks Beach and Viscount Morpeth.

And, it being after Five of the clock, further consideration of the Bill, as amended, stood adjourned.

Bill, as amended (by the Standing Committee), to be further considered upon Wednesday next.

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 3, adjourned the House without Question put.

Adjourned at twenty-one minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 2nd July, 1906.

LORD GRAVES (CLAIM TO VOTE).

Committee for Privileges met. Counsel heard to open the case on behalf of the claimant. Witnesses examined. The Attorney-General and the Attorney-General for Ireland appearing on behalf of the Crown; the Attorney-General for Ireland heard. Claim considered. Then it was resolved that the Petitioner Henry Cyril Percy Graves, Lord Graves, Baron of Gravesend in the Peerage of Ireland, hath made out his claim to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland; the report thereof to be made to the House.

LORD GRAVES (CLAIM TO VOTE.)

The evidence taken before the Committee for Privileges to be printed. (No. 148.)

EARLDOM OF NORFOLK.

Committee for Privileges met. Counsel heard to open the case on behalf of the claimant Lord Mowbray. Committee adjourned to Thursday next.

Several Lords took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill. Witnesses ordered to attend the Select Committee.

Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Railway Bill. The Chairman of Committes informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 15th of June and Monday last discharged, and Bill committed for To-morrow.

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill. The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the Opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 21st of June and Monday last discharged, and Bill committed to a Committee of the Whole House.

Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House To-morrow.

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Bill. Moved, That the order made on the 26th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2^a; agreed to. Bill read accordingly, and committed.

Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^a, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Metropolitan Railway Bill. Read 3^a, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 3.) Bill. Brought from the Commons.

Great Northern Railway Bill. Brought from the Commons, read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

Cambrian Railways Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1.) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2.) Bill. House in Committee (according to order); Bills reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bills to be read 3^a To-morrow.

Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill. Read 3^a (according to order), and passed.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Order (No. 3.) Bill. Brought from the Commons and read 1^a; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 149.)

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Regulations for the training of teachers and for the examination of students in training colleges.

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3658. Roumania (Constantza).

No. 3659. United States (New Orleans).

No. 3660. Corea.

No. 3661. China (Tientsin).

OSBORNE.

Report by the House Governour and Medical Superintendent, for the year ended 31st March 1906.

COMMERCIAL No. 5 (1906).

International Sugar Commission, Spring Session, 1906. Report of Proceedings (in continuation of "Commercial No. 3. (1906)")

JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND) 1905.

Part II. Civil Statistics.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

Accounts of all deposits received and paid during the year ended 31st December 1905; together with a statement showing the aggregate amount of the liabilities of the Government to depositors in the Post Office Savings Banks on 31st December 1905, and the nature and amount of the securities held by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt to meet those liabilities at that date.

SUPERANNUATION.

Treasury Minute, dated 28th June, 1906, declaring that Edward Wallace, boy, Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield, War Office, was appointed without a Civil Service certificate through inadvertence on the part of the head of his department.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

BILLS OF EXCHANGE BILL [H.L.]

Lord AVEBURY: My Lords, I ask permission to say a word or two which may be for the convenience of the House. The Bills of Exchange Bill stands for Second Reading to-morrow, but the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, whose time has been so very much occupied lately, has asked me to postpone it for this year, and has kindly promised that he will look into it before next session. I know what great pressure he has had upon him, and I felt I could not but assent to the request. I ask leave, therefore, to withdraw the Bill.

Order for resuming the debate, on the motion for the Second Reading To-morrow, discharged; and Bill, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

THE COLONIES AND THE MERCHANT SERVICE.

Lord MUSKERRY rose to ask His Majesty's Government whether, according to the laws of New Zealand, the captains and officers of merchant vessels registered in that colony must be British subjects; whether it is a fact that the Government of Canada have introduced a Bill into the Canadian Parliament with the object of limiting the issue of master's and mate's certificates to Canadians; and whether His Majesty's Government will urge upon the Canadian authorities the desirability of all British subjects being permitted to present themselves for examination for certificates of the kind in the Dominion of Canada.

The noble Lord said: My Lords, as your Lordships will see by the Question standing in my name on the Paper, the New Zealand Government have very wisely and patriotically adopted the measure which I have been pressing on your Lordships for the past few years, and which I hope the present Government will adopt later on in the session. But the Government of Canada have gone a little beyond that, and in place of confining the granting of certificates to British subjects they have confined it to Canadian subjects only. As the Royal Navy is an Imperial force, so also, I think, ought the merchant service to be so regarded. I hope that His Majesty's Government will see their way to make representations to the Government of Canada as to the desirability of all British subjects being permitted to present themselves for examination.

The Earl of GRANARD: My Lords, in answer to the first part of the Question, I have to say that my noble friend is correct in stating that the law of New Zealand limits the issue of captains' and officers' certificates to British subjects alone. With regard to the second part of the Question, the Colonial Office at present have no knowledge of the Bill to which the noble Lord refers. It has not been received in this country, and, therefore, His Majesty's Government can offer no opinion on the merits of the Bill.

RAFTS IN THE PACIFIC.

LORD MUSKERRY rose to ask His Majesty's Government whether their attention had been drawn to the report of the steamer "Nebraskan," that when steaming in the North Pacific, she encountered a vast field of drifting logs, forming a dangerous impediment to navigation; and, whether, having regard to the serious dangers likely to arise through the practice of towing gigantic rafts across the waters of the North Pacific, His Majesty's Government could see their way clear to place themselves in communication with the proper authorities with a view to these dangers being avoided in the future.

The noble Lord said: My Lords, this Question has reference to the practice of towing gigantic rafts across the waters of the North Pacific. Drifting rafts form as dangerous an impediment to navigation as icebergs or rocks, and I think it is not unreasonable to ask His Majesty's Government, having regard to the serious dangers likely to arise from this practice, to place themselves in communication with the proper authorities, with a view to some regulation being adopted to minimise the danger.

THE EARL OF GRANARD: My Lords, no report has yet been received by the Board of Trade with regard to the steamship "Nebraskan," but there can be no doubt that the towing of logs across the North Pacific does constitute a very great danger to shipping. The United States Government have had the matter under their consideration on several occasions. In 1900 they brought forward a Bill in Congress to limit the towing of these rafts across the Pacific, but the Bill did not get through. I can assure my noble friend that the matter is having the attention of the Board of Trade, and as soon as the report is received with regard to the special case of the steamship "Nebraskan" we will forward the report to the United States Government.

THE TURKISH CUSTOMS DUTIES.

*LORD NEWTON rose to call attention to the proposed increase in the Turkish Customs duties and to move for Papers. The noble Lord said: My Lords, the question of an increase in the Turkish Customs duties is a matter which has been under discussion for some time, and it arises solely from political reasons. The Turkish Customs tariff was fixed by Treaty at 8 per cent., and it is calculated, I believe, by our Foreign Office that the proposed increase will result in a gain to the Turkish Government of £750,000 a year. Of this 25 per cent. goes to the bondholders under the decree of 1903, leaving the sum available to the Turkish Government at about £560,000; that is to say, if it is collected under the present methods—methods under which what may be euphemistically called leakages to a considerable extent continually occur. But if, on the other hand, as I have heard it rumoured, the collection is undertaken by the Administration of the Public Debt, which, of course, is under European control, the yield will in all probability be considerably higher.

It has been further calculated by the Foreign Office, I understand, that no less than 60 per cent. of the increased duties will fall upon British trade. As I need hardly point out, the inhabitants of Turkey are extremely poor; the English goods which are sold in Turkey are of a somewhat superior description, as a rule, to those sent by foreign countries, and, therefore it is to be feared that the sale of British goods may considerably diminish. In return for this increased charge we are promised certain somewhat shadowy advantages in connection with mining laws in Turkey, and improvements in the Custom Houses and matters of that kind. I believe I am correct in stating that there are extremely few British subjects who are interested in mining in Turkey, and as for the promised reform in the Custom Houses and so forth, those are promises which have been very frequently made before. I would like to point out that the increase is proposed not for the benefit of international trade, but for political reasons, namely, as a means of meeting the deficit in the Macedonian Budget, a deficit which roughly corresponds to the increased sum which it is thought will be available if the proposed increase takes place.

I have so frequently brought the subject of Macedonia before this House that I really shrink from even uttering that ill-omened name, but I am afraid I must once more allude shortly to that question. Briefly stated, the position is as follows. At the present moment Europe, represented by the great Powers, is endeavouring to carry out a scheme of so-called reforms. These so-called reforms naturally cost money, and the Turkish Government represents that the increased expenditure can only be met by increasing the Customs tariff. At present, as I have already stated, the annual deficit on the Macedonian Budget amounts, roughly, to £600,000 a year. This deficit is clearly and obviously caused by the fact that the Turks are obliged to maintain a very large force in those provinces. If these reforms had really come into operation, if they really existed, and if there had been any practical and tangible improvement in the situation in Macedonia since Europe took the task in hand, then I admit at once that there would be very little to be said against devoting this increased sum to this particular purpose. But so far as I am aware, nobody who really knows the facts of the situation, nobody who is really acquainted with Macedonia and does not get his knowledge at second hand, believes for one single moment that internationally controlled finance is going to settle what is called the Macedonian question.

Everybody must realise by this time, except Count Goluchowski and a few firm optimists of that character, that the real cause of the present distracted condition of the country is not only the misgovernment of the Turks, bad enough as that may be, but the rival ambitions and mutual hatred of the Christian races inhabiting those provinces, and the designs of neighbouring States. These difficulties will never be settled by international finance. The Turks and everybody else acquainted with the situation know very well that financial reform will do little else than postpone the final smash. I am under the impression that the Turkish Government, or perhaps it would be more correct to say the Sultan, does not believe in the very least in the disinterestedness of Europe. He observes that Europe pays no attention, for instance, to what is going on in Russia at the present moment. He observes that no serious effort has ever been made to restrain the neighbouring States from waging a kind of unofficial war on Turkey. Only this afternoon I received intelligence that a large band has just gone out from Greece for Macedonia under the leadership of two half-pay officers in the Greek Army.

I am under the impression that the Sultan and the Turkish Government are firmly convinced in their own minds that no force is likely to be employed against them unless the interests of one of the great Powers is involved; this belief is probably shared by all the Mussulman subjects of the Sultan, and for that reason he will have the support of his Mussulman subjects in opposition to any reforms which may be put forward from outside. I have before expressed the opinion—it may be an exaggerated opinion—that the so-called scheme of reforms is little better than a vast international sham; but I have never flattered myself that my words have produced the slightest impression upon this assembly or elsewhere. But what I do find is corrobation from other sources. For instance, I received a letter only a few days ago, from an exceptionally well-informed gentleman who resides in Macedonia, to this effect—

> "Things are not going on well. There is going to be a suspension of payment to-morrow. General de Giorgis can get nothing done. I do not think we shall have any general rising this year, but as things are going on it is inevitable later on, and I cannot but think that the sooner it comes the better it will be for all parties. At present, people are being killed uselessly at the rate of 250 a month, and a good honest war would be far less demoralising."

Such is the state of these provinces, which for some years have enjoyed the benefit of the Mursteg programme. These somewhat pessimistic views are corroborated by correspondents who have written in the Press and the reviews, and I may claim that at all events I am not a solitary pessimist with regard to this particular question.

In face of these opinions, I might say of these facts, I would ask whether it is of much use agreeing under the circumstances to the proposed increase. It seems to me clear that, however much you may tie up these funds on paper, the money must eventually go to the support of the large military force which is now established in that country and is eating up the revenues. It is all very well to inveigh against the criminality of helping the Turks to maintain large armies for the purpose of over-aweing the population, but this large military force is part and parcel of the whole thing. These men are maintained there because the Turks intend to keep that country as long as they can, and they do not intend to be taken unawares. For my part, I do not see how it will be possible, as has been proposed, that the military expenditure should be separated from the other form of expenditure. It is clearly a part of the general expenditure, and I expect to hear the noble Lord admit that fact. I confess it seems to me that if money is going to be found for what is really a humanitarian and political purpose, it is preferable that the Powers concerned should themselves guarantee a loan; and if they really believe in the efficacy of their own reforms there surely cannot be much risk about it.

But there is another aspect of the question to which I should like to draw attention. It is perfectly plain that if this large additional sum is secured it will free an equivalent amount, and I confess it appears to me that as the proposed increase will largely fall upon ourselves, we have a right to ascertain that such sums as are liberated will not be used in any way prejudicial to British interests. My noble friend who will reply for the Foreign Office will probably tell me that Turkish Imperial expenditure is no concern of ours, a view from which I am prepared to dissent. He will probably also state that the increase will only be allowed for a limited period. This may be so, but it appears to me an absolutely illusory safeguard. The Turks, having once tasted the joy of an 11 per cent. instead of an 8 per cent. Customs tariff, will not be likely to relinquish it except under very great pressure, and, in view of the chronic financial embarrassment of that country, I think that once you have agreed to the increase it will be found impossible in practice to revert to the old scale.

By a somewhat singular coincidence, whenever an increase in the Turkish Customs tariff is mooted, the question of the Baghdad Railway again comes up. In 1903, when the question of the Baghdad Railway was before the world, it coincided with the proposed increase in the Turkish Customs tariff, and we observe the same phenomenon now. It is an open secret that it is hoped in some quarters that the proposed increase in the Turkish Customs duties will facilitate the granting of the kilometric guarantee for the Baghdad Railway. I do not wish to say too much upon the subject of that railway, but I may perhaps be permitted to remind the House that it is a purely German undertaking, and that when, in 1903, negotiations were going on for the purpose of enabling us to participate in the making of that railway, the noble Marquess who was then Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (the Marquess of Lansdowne) announced that it had become clear that the control over this line was to be almost entirely German, and not international in the proper sense of the word, and that we had abandoned any further idea of co-operation. And at the same time the noble Marquess made a still more important statement, warning other Powers from establishing military or naval ports in the Persian Gulf.

The Baghdad line has hitherto made very little progress. Only one section of 200 kilometres has been finished, and this section, as I know by experience, is one which was very easily made. But the line has now reached the foot of the Taurus, and it is quite obvious that very much more money will be required in order to continue it. It is plain that if the Turkish Government have more money at their command there will, at all events, be some chance of obtaining the kilometric guarantee for the line. With regard to this railway enterprise, I admit that this country cannot adopt a purely obstructive attitude. The probability is that the line will be made sooner or later, but it is much more likely to be made sooner if the kilometric guarantee is forthcoming. I am not one of those persons who are always talking about the German danger, but I think any one will admit that the prospect of a railway running from the Bosphorus in one direction to Baghdad, and in another direction to Mecca or Medina, one route entirely controlled by Germany, and the other partially controlled by Germany, is a contingency which we cannot regard altogether with indifference. Therefore, what I wish to point out is that the time has come when we ought to decide upon our policy with regard to this matter, and endeavour to come to terms, not only with Germany, but with the Turkish Government.

It is perfectly plain that as long as the Turkish Customs duties remain at their present rate, we are in a strong position. We have a good card in our hand; we have got something to bargain with; but if we surrender without obtaining a proper equivalent we are, it seems to me, to a great extent weakening our bargaining power. I urge, therefore, that a favourable opportunity has now occurred for making a bargain with the Germans and the Turks with regard to this railway, before we finally assent to the increase in the Customs duties. I have endeavoured to show, very roughly and very imperfectly, I am afraid, that there are at all events some objections to our assent being given, if it has not already been given. I have endeavoured to point out that the proposal to apply such funds to the meeting of the Macedonian deficit is open to objection, on the principle that the increase will release sums which may possibly be employed for purposes not beneficial to British interests; that the benefits to be obtained in return for our assent do not appear to be of much importance; and, lastly, that as the additional duties will affect our trade considerably more than that of any other country, commensurate concessions ought to be obtained on our part. My noble friend opposite may have a complete answer to such objections as I have made, and perhaps he will show that the Government have fully considered the points I have enumerated. All I desire to say, in conclusion, is that I draw attention to this matter not with any desire of embarrassing the Government or of making Party capital out of it, if Party capital is to be made, but with a view to eliciting a full and comprehensive statement from the noble Lord.

*THE UNDER - SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord FITZMAURICE): My Lords, it sometimes happens that a Minister in charge of a Department, when he sees a Notice upon the Paper in regard to what may be called current negotiations, is obliged, however unwillingly, to make an appeal to whoever has placed that Notice on the Paper to abstain from bringing it forward, on the ground that a debate would be inconvenient to the negotiations which were proceeding. But upon this occasion I made no such appeal to my noble friend, although well aware of the courtesy with which he always meets any appeal that is made to him in regard to foreign affairs, because this is one of those rare occasions when, so far as I am able to judge, a debate in this House, instead of being in any way injurious to the pending negotiations, may, on the contrary, be useful as tending to remove certain current misapprehensions, and to strengthen rather than weaken the position of His Majesty's Government.

My noble friend has very accurately, in the rapid survey which he has made of a very large and many-sided question, pointed out that when you begin to discuss an increase in the Turkish Customs duties, you immediately touch on the question of Macedonian reform on the one side, and on the even more delicate and difficult subject of the Baghdad railway on the other. That is why the subject excites an interest that would not attach to a question of dry finance. Broadly speaking, the question of the increase of the Turkish Customs duties has, ever since 1880, been mixed up with the subject of the revision of the commercial treaties with Turkey. But, owing to the delicate character of the questions involved, owing to the political complications which have constantly arisen, and owing to the dilatory habits and methods of the Turkish Government, it has not been found possible to arrive at a general revision of the commercial treaties with Turkey, a matter which affects not only this country, but all the great European Powers. Therefore, when the last grave set of questions arose, to be dealt with by his Majesty's late advisers in Macedonia, the question of the Turkish Customs and all the controversies that surround it stood exactly where they stood a considerable number of years ago, except that growing years had, if anything, aggravated the political situation, and that the Turkish Government was becoming more and more anxious to get hold of increased revenue.

There was, therefore, no reason to be astonished that the trained diplomatists of the Ottoman Empire, when called upon to introduce reforms into Macedonia, took the opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Foreign Office how very desirable it would be to let them have a little more money. But the matter was not so simple; and the Blue-books show that, from the first occasion on which the Turkish Ambassador approached His Majesty's Foreign Secretary it was pointed out that, instead of a revision of commercial treaties, if a simple arrangement of an increase by 3 per cent. of the *ad valorem* duties which govern British trade with Turkey were granted, it would be necessary to attach strict conditions to any agreement on our part. Thus it was that the question of Macedonian reform and that of the increase of the Turkish 3 per cent. Customs —though having a distinct history— became mixed up together.

The close connection of the two questions was the other day insisted on by the Austro-Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs in addressing the Hungarian Delegation. That passage in Count Goluchowski's speech has not received the attention which it deserves. From the beginning the British Government have marched in line with the Austro-Hungarian Government. The passage in Count Goluchowski's speech to which I refer was as follows—

> "The immediate cause of the naval demonstration was the refusal of the Porte to consent to the demand of the Powers for the appointment of an International Commission of Finance nominated for a limited period for the purpose of organising the financial administration and obtaining such guarantees as would ensure the revenue obtained by taxation being applied in the future to the requirements of the three vilayets. Especial justification for this demand was to be found in the fact that in the meantime Turkey had claimed to be allowed to make a 3 per cent. increase in her import duties—a measure recognised by the Powers as an absolute necessity, if the so-called Macedonian Budget were to be made to balance; and that several Cabinets, and amongst them, above all, the English Cabinet, had made their acceptance of this increase in the Customs duties conditional primarily on the concession to them of a direct participation by their own representatives in the work of organising the produce of taxation in future."

After decided pressure by the naval demonstration, the moderate demands of the Powers, which included the appointment of the Commission, were agreed to, but they were not found to contain the full measure of reform which, with the unanimous consent of the people of this country, the late Secretary of State had desired to incorporate. That was not owing to any weakness on the part of His Majesty's Government, but owing to the impossibility of inducing other Powers to come into line.

The unfortunate consequence of the Foreign Office's finding itself obliged to moderate its demands is that at this moment the chapter of Macedonia reform is, for the time being—and I lay stress on that qualification—closed by the acceptance of the Commission. Because, as that Commission only began to operate in January, it would be impossible, whatever the wishes of His Majesty's Government might be, for us to come forward and reopen all those questions which only a few months ago were, for the time being, closed. Having accepted the reforms, for whatever they were worth, in December last, it is the duty of His Majesty's Government to give those reforms some little time to operate. But, in regard to that part of Count Goluchowski's speech which relates to the Turkish 3 per cent. Customs, we stand on different ground. The noble Marquess opposite pointed out most clearly and distinctly in the different Notes which were addressed by him to the Turkish Ambassador and in the despatches which he wrote to our Ambassador at Constantinople, that upon grounds mainly commercial, but in some cases partly political, there were other conditions besides the Financial Commission which must attach to the consent of this country to the increase of the 3 per cent. Customs. Those conditions included improvements in the Custom houses, the removal of those grievances, or as many of them as possible, under which trade suffers from the antiquated and obstructive method of levying duties at the Turkish ports, the peculiar hardship with which a certain interpretation of the meaning of existing duties falls upon some classes of English goods, and the removal of the antiquated provisions of the Turkish mining law, which so greatly hampers the investment of capital, especially in Asiatic Turkey, which is beginning to have a new and growing importance for the world at large. These were the commercial conditions.

But there was another condition which, no doubt, grew out of, although it was not absolutely contained in, the agreement in regard to the Financial Commission. There was the condition accepted by the Porte during these discussions, though not absolutely incorporated textually in the law of the Vilayet itself, that the money necessary to balance the vilayet Budget should be provided by the Turkish Government out of Imperial revenues, so that the local revenues of Macedonia might be used to defray local expenses and the heavy military expenditure which the Turkish Government insisted on keeping up should not be thrown on the unfortunate inhabitants of the vilayets. These questions have not been lost sight of by His Majesty's Government.

I have seen with some astonishment statements recently appearing from gentlemen ordinarily well informed in these matters, who have addressed communications to the Press, apparently under the belief, which they think to be well founded, that the whole of this question of the 3 per cent. Customs has been agreed upon, and that the Foreign Office has walked into some trap. I cannot agree with the noble Lord that the conditions in regard to the mining laws, the levying of duties, and the improvements in the Customs are small or unimportant matters. I have enjoyed the advantage of discussing these questions with gentlemen of great knowledge and experience in Turkish finance and commerce, and they take a more favourable view of the matter than the noble Lord. I think, however, that, putting these questions aside, His Majesty's Government would not have met with the approval of either House of Parliament if they had not been in a position to say, as we can, that we have adhered strictly and sternly to the policy of our predecessors in insisting that we shall have adequate guarantees that the money arising from the increase of the 3 per cents., if ever collected, shall find its way into the Budget of the Macedonian vilayets, and shall not go to Constantinople to be played with and used for any purpose which the Government of the Porte way think desirable.

The machinery which we have proposed to call into play for the object I have described is the machinery provided by what is known as the Commission of the Ottoman Debt. The Commission of the Ottoman Debt is a body whose existence is well known, and there is a convincing reason why the Government have decided to press on the Porte the adoption of the machinery of the Ottoman Debt Commission rather than that of any other body. Dealing with the Porte in matters of this kind is a long and dilatory process, and if you can find some proposal which is more likely than another to be acceptable to the Porte, it is wise to adopt it. The advantage of suggesting the machinery of the Ottoman Debt Commission is that it is looked upon as an Ottoman service. A proposal to the Porte to work either in this matter or in any other through the Ottoman Debt Commission does not meet with the amount of resistance that might arise over a proposal of a European commission appointed by foreign Governments.

Apart from this, however, the Ottoman Debt Commission has been a singularly honest and successful service. It is perhaps almost the only bright spot in Turkish finance. I might compare it—though the comparison is not a complete one—to the position of the European Customs in China. Just as the European Customs in China are the bright spot amid a chaos of utter confusion, so is the work of the Ottoman Debt Commission in Turkey. That Commission is not a body which merely takes a certain amount of money and hands it over to certain bondholders. No doubt this was its first origin and what called it into existence; but gradually, owing to the great skill of the financiers who have had control of its operations, it has been entrusted with the collection as well as with the administration of certain funds, and the taxes which it collects with the consent of the Ottoman Government have gradually gone on increasing. At this time it collects the sheep tax, the sites tax, and what are known as the six revenues—namely, salt, stamps, silk, fisheries, tobacco, and spirits. Under a Decree known by its Turkish name of Mouharrem, and a later Decree amending it, it has also the right of collecting any future increase that may arise in the Customs, and of allotting a certain proportion of the net revenue so collected for the benefit of the bondholders, and then of handing over what remains—namely, 75 per cent.—to the

Turkish Government. Here, then, was a machine ready to our hands, and which, probably with the consent of the Porte, we could use to collect revenue, to earmark it for a particular purpose; and to see that it found its way into the account of the Budget of the vilayets at Salonika.

Those were the conditions which, after communication with the Powers, we were able to place as the unalterable demands we attached to the consent of this and the other Governments to the increase of Customs duties; and, in addition, we required that there should be fair notice given so that the increase of Customs should not come into operation like a thief in the night, but should be limited to a certain period. That period was eventually fixed at seven years. I am glad to inform your Lordships that we were also able, by the good will chiefly of the representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople, to obtain the assent of those whom they represented; and a Note was handed to the Porte in the last days of May embodying these demands, and stating in unmistakable language that there was no question of receding from the demands so made, and that if the Turkish Government desired to have this increase of revenue they must make up their minds to carry out in practice as well as promise the demands made upon them by the Ambassadors who signed the Note.

I was in hopes until recently that it might possibly be my good fortune this evening either to have left my story there or that probably in a few days I might have been able to announce the result of the negotiations. But that is not the case. The Turkish Government has during the last few days sent a reply to the Note which we had every reason to believe would have been accepted in a friendly spirit, raising so many new points, and suggesting so many changes in what we have put forward, that I think I am not in the least exaggerating my statement when I say that the most correct account I can give of the present state of the negotiations is that they practically stand at almost exactly the same point at which they stood when the late Government left office. The responsibility of this lies entirely with the Turkish Government; but in any case the result is entirely to absolve His Majesty's Government from those rather unwarrantable and hasty imputations that have been made by those who have rushed forward to say that the whole matter is settled and that the Turkish Government has proved itself to be master of the situation.

The noble Lord opposite has introduced the question of the Baghdad Railway; and he has pointed out what is no doubt theoretically true, that if all our terms are accepted by the Porte, and if this large surplus is handed over to the account of the Budget of the vilayets at Salonika, other revenues now in the possession of the Porte, and now theoretically being under the obligation appropriated for the use and the benefit of the Budget of the vilayets, might in conceivable circumstances be used for the purpose of finding a subvention for the Baghdad Railway. I do not desire to go into this great and difficult question. It is one of the greatest questions of the time. It occupies the same sort of position in the Oriental world which many years ago the making of the Suez Canal occupied; and every step which this country takes and every word which the Foreign Secretary or the Under-Secretary uses about it must be carefully weighed and considered. But I cannot help pointing out to my noble friend that I think his fears are rather premature. Turkish finance is not to be reasoned about as if it were, let us say, British finance under the control of Mr. Gladstone. Turkish finance is a mass of confusion, and no doubt the Turkish Government will be in a position to use certain revenues which may be liberated; but I cannot think that between those revenues and the Baghdad Railway there is anything but a rather distant connection. Unless we are prepared to assume the permanent control of Turkish finance as a whole, how is it possible for us to say that certain revenues—assuming their existence, which is to assume a good deal—will be liberated, and at once used for the particular purpose of constructing the Baghdad Railway? No doubt in theory some revenues may be liberated; and, just in proportion as the collection and control by the Commission of the Debt of all the revenues which they collect is successful or not, the revenue liberated will be greater or less.

But the Turkish Government has many prior claims upon it—for instance, the arrears of pay to all its servants, civil and military; improvements long due which it ought to make at once; there is the suppression of the rebellion in Arabia, and large borrowings on current account which have to be repaid; and we cannot say to the Turkish Government, unless we are prepared to travel another long step on the road of interference, "You shall do this, and you shall not do that with your surplus revenue. You shall pay your Civil servants; you shall reduce your army; you shall not construct this railway, but you may construct that one" —and so on. But what we can say, and what we are saying, is that the increase of the Customs shall not be used for any purpose until the limited yet important object for which we have assumed responsibility is first satisfied—namely, the balancing of the Macedonian Budget.

In regard to the Baghdad Railway, we are not of opinion that its construction is necessarily a British interest in itself, but it does raise many questions which are of British interest, and affects others; and these are receiving careful consideration. I cannot say more on that subject now beyond this, that we do not think that to proclaim, as we are apparently invited to proclaim on the house-tops, that we shall object to the increase of the Turkish Customs merely because indirectly such a step might be of some advantage to the construction of the Baghdad Railway is a course which prudent statesmanship recommends. We should then appear in the unenviable position of the dog in the manger, and should probably incur the hostility of great interests without whose goodwill this question cannot be placed on a permanent or satisfactory basis.

This word only in conclusion. I have told your Lordships that the Turkish Government have practically, by their reply to our Note, adjourned this question. What, however, I would venture to point out to the Turkish Government is this, that although we consider that the immediate chapter for the time being of Macedonian reforms is closed by the law of the vilayets, if by any action of the Turkish Government it is made impossible to make these reforms really thorough and satisfactory, then the great Powers will be fully justified in opening a new chapter. I would venture to urge that point of view on the Turkish Government; and in any case, if the Turkish Government fail to realise that in our negotiations with regard to the increase of the Customs we have gone as far as possible in concession to their demands—so much so that we have been threatened almost within the last few days with the censure of our friends—they must bear in mind that the immediate remedy that his Majesty's Government are fully justified in urging upon them is that, if they will not make it possible even with our good will and with the consent of the other Powers, to find money in the way that has been suggested, they must immediately adopt the only other remedy which they can adopt and reduce the enormous military force which, as I think, is quite unnecessarily kept up in Macedonia. These explanations will, I trust, be satisfactory to my noble friend. I only ask him and his friends to believe that we are fully conscious of the great importance of the issues involved in this question, and we can only hope that the House and the country will acknowledge how difficult our task is.

***Lord SANDERSON**: My Lords, I venture to think that the very full statement which has been made by the noble Lord the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs is as satisfactory as any one could expect in such very perplexing circumstances. It was once remarked by a Naval Lord of the Admiralty that no one could conceive the sufferings of an officer in command of a second-class torpedo boat except the officer himself; and that he had not words to describe them. I think it may be said, in the same way, that no one can realise the perplexities and difficulties surrounding the question of Turkish reforms except those who have to deal with them, and that they are never allowed to reveal more than half of them. There is one main principle to which we pledged ourselves by the course we took in regard to the Treaty of San Stefano, and to which we have always adhered—that of working in concert with the other Powers. The method is no doubt tedious and slow in practice, but it is sound and safe. I do not think that in the present circumstances we could have departed from that principle by making further conditions in regard to the concession of the increased Customs duties, and I trust that His Majesty's Government will continue upon the same lines.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, as my noble friend has truly said, this important subject has always been treated by your Lordships as one altogether outside the scope of party controversy; and it would have given us great pleasure to congratulate His Majesty's Government if they had been able to tell us that they had found it possible to effect a thoroughly satisfactory settlement of these difficult and embarrassing questions. But the concluding announcement made by my noble friend makes it clear that once again the perversity of the Turkish Government has rendered impossible an arrangement which, so far as I was able to follow the outline given by my noble friend, would have been upon the whole a very advantageous one to them. I cannot help hoping that, if the negotiations should be renewed hereafter, His Majesty's Government may find it possible to stiffen their conditions somewhat and really to open what my noble friend describes as a new chapter in the lamentable history of these transactions.

The settlement upon which His Majesty's Government were on the point of entering was certainly one which deserved very careful consideration by your Lordships' House. We were on the point of agreeing to an increase of 3 per cent. in the Customs duties levied on the goods of this country. I do not suggest that this is a very crushing burden on our trade, but it is certainly an appreciable burden, and one which we had no right to submit to except in the face of inexorable necessity. Then by accepting this addition to the Customs duties we should have deprived ourselves of a lever which I believe it would be possible to use to very good effect in any negotiations on any subject with the Turkish Government. I therefore should certainly be inclined to say, do not let us accept that burden, do not let us let go our hold on that lever unless we are absolutely satisfied that we obtain an adequate return for the sacrifices we are asked to make.

There are two directions in which it is possible to look for such a return. There is, in the first place, the possibility of obtaining in consideration of the sacrifice some improvements in the conditions under which British commerce is carried on in Turkey. I gather that such concessions were to have been obtained —I mean such concessions as the improvement in the administration of the Turkish Custom Houses and certain improvements in the mining regulations—concessions which I believe Sir Nicholas O'Conor, whose high authority I am the first to recognise, regards as of considerable value to this country. But when we are told that we are to be recouped in this manner I think we have a right to make the rejoinder that some of the most scandalous abuses to be found in the administration of the Turkish Customs are abuses which ought to be redressed as a matter of right without the offer of anything in the shape of a bribe or any increase in the burdens to which our trade is called upon to submit.

Another point which it seems to me should be considered, and which, I hope, will be considered, is this—what security are we able to obtain that these improvements in the Customs administration, these new mining regulations, these alterations in the manner in which British imports are to be examined at the port of entry will be continued to us? We have had a very bitter experience of the value of Turkish promises. I should be glad if it were a feature in any settlement of the kind we have been discussing this evening that the 3 per cent. increase of the Customs duties should not be allowed to come into operation until, by an experience spread over a certain length of time, we had become satisfied that the ways of the Turkish Customs authorities had really been amended.

LORD FITZMAURICE: I think it will be found, as I said, that all those matters have been considered and will be found touched upon in the Note which we presented, and which, of course in time will be laid before your Lordships. The conditions which were placed before the Turkish Government followed closely the conditions laid down by the noble Marquess, and which are to be found in the Blue-books before the House.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: That is not quite my point. My point was that not only should the conditions be insisted on, but that we should insist on having a certain amount of experience of the way the new regulations were carried out before the increased duties were allowed to come into operation. Although, therefore, I admit that concessions of this kind are not without a certain value, I am bound to say that the coin is one in which I do not think I should care to be paid in full for so great a concession as we are called upon to make on our side.

But there can be no doubt, if we are to speak frankly about these things, that the real return which we have been expecting to get for agreeing to the 3 per cent. increase is that we should secure better government in the Macedonian vilayets. Now it may be said, Why should you tax the trade of this country, and of a particular section of the trade of this country, in order to obtain better government for a part of the Turkish Empire? I think the only answer that can be given is that the present condition of Macedonia is a standing menace to the peace of Europe and that it is, therefore, to the interest of this country as it is to the interest of all the civilised Powers that the condition of those regions should be improved.

We have acted upon that assumption throughout. We have taken great trouble, we have submitted to considerable sacrifices, in order to bring about some improvement of the condition of Macedonia. Therefore, I for one would certainly agree with his Majesty's Government in saying it is right that we should submit to sacrifices such as the sacrifice involved in this increase of duties in order to bring about more orderly and more decent government in Macedonia. Then my noble friend who introduced this subject, and has studied it so thoroughly, threw great doubt upon the value of these reforms.

LORD NEWTON: Hear, hear!

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I am not surprised to hear my noble friend's cheer. Like him, I have been again and again disappointed in my hopes of seeing better government introduced in Macedonia; and I admit that many of those schemes for which such high hopes were entertained have greatly disappointed their authors. But I am bound to say that it does seem to me that the appointment of this Financial Commission is by far the longest step that has yet been taken in the direction of an amelioration of the state of affairs in Macedonia. I think we can gauge the value of the step by the reluctance with which it was accepted by the Turkish Government. It was accepted by the Turkish Government only, so to speak, at the point of the bayonet. I think that shows pretty conclusively that they, at any rate, know what a serious matter it is for them.

It is, no doubt, true that a considerable part of the scheme to which the Financial Commission was to give effect was whittled away during the course of the negotiations and that the *réglement* does not at this moment stand at all in the same form as that in which it was originally framed. I gather, nevertheless—and here, again, I am greatly guided by the opinion of Sir Nicholas O'Conor—that, though something has been taken, a good deal has been left. The scheme provides for improvement in the administration of the tithe, for the more regular payment of the local officials, for the framing of a proper Budget, and for a much-needed improvement in the prisons administration. I say, then, that the scheme is worth something — worth more, I believe, than any scheme that has yet been put forward. If that is so, it seems to me to follow that the scheme cannot operate unless there are sufficient funds to enable effect to be given to it. I think I am right in saying that the Financial Commission have reported that without additional funds they are unable to carry the scheme out.

LORD FITZMAURICE indicated assent.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I see that I am correct. If that is so, then I think that His Majesty's Government could not have taken upon themselves the responsibility of shipwrecking the scheme by withholding their consent to this increase of duties. There is, however, a preliminary question which, I think, ought to be asked, and I shall be glad if it can be answered—namely, is it quite clear that the necessary funds, which amount to about £600,000, cannot be provided by the Turkish Government without increasing the Customs duties? I remember that, when the proposal was first made to the late Government, I raised that question. I asked whether a more careful and honest administration of the revenues of the three vilayets would not provide, perhaps not the whole of the sum needed, but something towards it.

I also raised the question whether an improvement in the administration of the Turkish Customs as a whole would not provide a sum amply sufficient to supply the deficit of the Macedonian Budget. The whole yield of the Turkish Customs does not, I believe, exceed £2,000,000. I refuse to believe that, with decent administration, the Turkish Customs could not be made to produce a very much larger sum. I should like to be told that the resources of diplomacy had been exhausted with regard to these two points before the 3 per cent. increase was agreed to. I may be told that difficulties have been encountered with the other Powers in obtaining consideration for a proposal of that kind. It was said with absolute accuracy by my noble friend on the Cross Benches hat, in all these matters we have endeavoured to keep the European concert working, and I am aware that we have not infrequently had to change our step because others would not keep pace with us.

There is another point which I should like to mention in passing. I gather from my noble friend that His Majesty's Government are satisfied that this extra 3 per cent. which will be, I think, in the form of a surtax, will be collected in such a manner by the Commission of the Debt that there will be no doubt whatever that it will be applied to and find its way to the Administration of Macedonia. If the 3 per cent. were not more honestly and carefully administered than the present 8 per cent., I think it highly probable that the Macedonian vilayets would not get the £600,000 which they require.

One word about military expenditure. The military expenditure is a terrible burden upon the Macedonian finances. I believe the military expenditure in the three vilayets reaches something like £2,200,000 a year.

LORD NEWTON: No, £1,300,000

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: The noble Lord is quite right. It was £2,200,000, and it is now £1,340,000 a year. There at once is a saving of over £800,000 a year. Is it clear that this £800,000 a year would not have sufficed, or partly sufficed, to make good the deficit without an addition to the burdens on the trade of this country? With regard to the military question generally, it is our duty to bear in mind that we cannot expect the Turks to get rid of the whole of their forces in Macedonia unless we are prepared to take upon ourselves the responsibility of protecting the Turkish frontier against inroads from Bulgaria or from other quarters. I remember that at one stage of these negotiations I ventured to put forward proposals which contemplated a guarantee of that kind, but those proposals must be added to the many well-meant efforts which have failed to succeed on account of the reluctance of other Powers to support us.

I should like to say one word before I sit down as to the question of the Baghdad Railway. I agree with my noble friend opposite that it would be a fallacy to suppose that because the increase of the Customs duties provides a certain additional sum to meet the requirements of the Turkish Government in Macedonia it follows that an equivalent sum is automatically liberated for other purposes That belief is founded upon a misapprehension as to the chronic condition of Turkish finances, and it by no means follows that these additional duties will give the Turkish Government an equivalent sum to dispose of as they think fit. But there is another point which, I think, was not touched upon by my noble friend opposite. The prospect of the increased yield in Customs duties being indirectly applied to the Baghdad Railway seems to me a remote one, for this reason: that I understood my noble friend to say that the consent of his Majesty's Government was given on condition that the increase was to be for seven years only. If that is so, it is clear that the Turkish Government would not be in a position to hypothecate the extra revenue and to obtain upon the strength of it a capital sum which they would be free to expend upon the Baghdad Railway. I entirely agree with what has been said by Lord Newton as to the importance of this question of the railway. I have always recognised the necessity of safeguarding British interests if ever there was a chance of that railway being pushed through to the Persian Gulf. When the question was being discussed in 1903 we were in confidential communication with some of the great financial houses concerned in the matter, and we hoped to see an arrangement the result of which would have been that the line—a part of which is now a purely German line—should be rendered international from sea to sea. If that could be done by proper guarantees, there would be no occasion for us to adopt towards it an obstructive attitude, which my noble friend opposite very properly deprecates.

To sum up these few remarks, I think his Majesty's Government would, in certain circumstances, and for an adequate consideration, have been justified in agreeing to an increase in the Customs duties. But I confess that the bargain as it has been described by my noble friend opposite does not seem to me in all respects a very attractive one, and if ever there should be a question of reopening the negotiations, and negotiating a further settlement, I trust that, both for our own sakes and in order to read the Turkish Government a lesson, which I think they richly deserve, we shall insist upon conditions not only as stringent as those they have now rejected, but considerably more advantageous to ourselves and imposing a heavier obligation upon them.

*THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, the tone of the speech of my noble friend who has just sat down has been so fair in regard to this most important question that I have not a word of controversy to say. We have been really walking in the footsteps of the noble Marquess opposite. We have been endeavouring to obtain the Porte's acceptance of the conditions which he laid down when in office. Unfortunately, up to the present time, we have not been successful, and the last communication received leads us to fear that the negotiations may almost be considered to have come to an end. My noble friend Lord Fitzmaurice alluded to the collective Memorandum which was presented to the Porte at the end of May. It is a matter of very great importance that in regard to this question—so delicate and yet so grave—we shall continue to act, as His Majesty's late Government acted, in concert with the Powers of Europe. The Note presented was a collective Note. If these negotiations fail, and if the attempts which have hitherto been made to come to a settlement of the question upon lines based very much upon the policy of the late Government should not be successful, then the hands of the Great Powers will, in our judgment, be set free. If the Porte rejects those proposed conditions and sets free our hands and those of the great Powers with whom we desire to act in perfect union, we shall be perfectly entitled then to put forward other proposals involving other conditions in order to bring a question which has been threatening the peace of the world to a final and satisfactory conclusion.

LORD NEWTON: I should like to ask the noble Lord the Under-Secretary whether he is going to publish any Papers, and, if so, whether they will include the reply of the Porte to which allusion has been made in the course of this debate.

LORD FITZMAURICE: Papers on the subject will undoubtedly be published, but I cannot undertake to lay them on the Table at once. The Papers will include the Note and the reply.

THE NAVAL VISIT TO RUSSIA.

*THE EARL OF JERSEY: My Lords, I rise to ask His Majesty's Government whether, on the occasion of the visit of the British Fleets to Russian ports, British sailors will be asked to fraternise with Russian sailors implicated in the North Sea outrage in 1904. There can be no doubt that the projected visit of our Fleet to Russian ports has created an unpleasant surprise. Under ordinary circumstances no comment would have been made, but we cannot deaden our feelings with regard to what took place in the North Sea and also to the horrors which are being perpetrated in Russia. The organised slaughter of so many Jews and the massacres of men, women, and children in Russia are surely reasons why we should stand aloof from any action which might be looked upon as implying either satisfaction with or indifference to what has taken place and is taking place.

The British Fleet is the sign of British power. Its presence is at times a token of British friendship, and no doubt the Government of the Tsar will welcome the presence of the British Fleet as a sign of moral support. We know, of course, that that is not the object of our Fleet's going to Russian ports; but at the same time it is impossible to believe that the presence of our Fleet will not be looked upon both in Russia and outside as a sign of the sympathy and goodwill of this country. We ought not to take any step which might cause our sympathies to be misunderstood in any part of the world. Our officers and men will be called upon to toast and cheer the Tsar and his Government at festivities, and, I suppose, to forget what happened in the North Sea less than two years ago. They will thus be placed in an uncomfortable and undesirable position.

What occurred in the North Sea two years ago was of a very wanton character. We are now asked to forget the incident or to treat it as being of no consequence. It cannot be right that our sailors should be called on to swallow the insult of having to fraternise with men who could act as the Russian Admiral and officers did on that occasion. There are events in history which are not quickly forgotten; and the outrage in the North Sea is one of them. I ask His Majesty's Government at least to say that those who were implicated in this outrage shall not be amongst the hosts by whom our sailors are to be received.

*LORD HENEAGE: My Lords, I rise with considerable hesitation, because on this question I think the least said the soonest mended. But I cannot help saying—and I speak on behalf of the people of Hull, as well as on behalf of the fishing industry generally — that we deeply regret that the question of the outrage two years ago has been revived by the noble Earl. If my noble friend had confined his Question to general remarks with regard to the fêting of the Fleet, and the fraternisation generally of one fleet with the other, I should not have thought right to interfere; but I cannot sit silent when I find that the whole of the Question is based upon the outrage which was committed in the North Sea in 1904. The Question solely, explicitly, and entirely refers to that outrage. Our fishermen have desired, as far as possible, to forget and forgive what happened in the North Sea, and at the present moment they desire, more strongly than perhaps anybody else, to carry on their operations in friendly intercourse with the fishermen of other nations, and they wish to be friends with the Russians now that the whole thing has blown over.

That the outrage was grave there can be no doubt, but we may recall to mind with admiration the self-restraint which was exercised by all those engaged in the fishing industry during those trying days, which I am sure my noble friend, who was then Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, will well remember. Those engaged in the fishing industry were perhaps cooler than almost any other class in this country, and I think they earned the admiration of the whole civilised world for the moderation and truthfulness with which they gave their evidence before the Conference at Paris, which was in direct opposition, as may be seen by the Report, to the evidence of Captain Klado, and those who tried to bring allegations against this country.

Two years have passed over. We have been fishing in the North Sea, and have been on friendly terms with the Russian Government. It is most desirable that we should as far as possible remain on friendly relations with all the signatories of the North Sea Convention, and I cannot help thinking that it is an unwise step at the present moment to revive in any way the lamentable occurrence which we deplored at the time and which we have tried to forget. I would remind my noble friend of another point. The Tsar spontaneously and most liberally did all he could to compensate those who had suffered by the loss of relatives or property, or who had themselves been injured. That compensation was given, and there is not the slightest doubt that everyone was fully satisfied in that respect.

This Question on the Paper to-day will go forth to the foreign Press as a revival of dislike, on the part of English fishermen, that our seamen should associate with Russian sailors on the occasion of the visit of the British Fleet to Russian ports. The Question will go forth as it stands upon the Paper, whilst the speech of the noble Earl will either be mutilated or not properly reported. We have had some experience during the last year of what I would venture to call the gutter Press of Germany in relation to our seafishing industry; and it is not nine months ago that I read a travesty of the action of English fishing boats in the North Sea. It was said that English fishermen behaved so badly that the Danish Government were compelled to capture them and take them before their courts, whilst Germans were treated in an entirely different manner, being, on account of their extremely good conduct, given a hint directly they got within the three-mile territorial waters. There was not one word of truth in that statement, and we have since received a contradiction of it from the Danish Government. But, after this Question everything will be done to stir up differences between this country and Russia. I regret therefore that the question has been brought forward, and I hope His Majesty's Government will give such an answer that we may at any rate continue in those friendly relations which happily obtain at present.

LORD MUSKERRY: My Lords, I was not aware before that Russian fishermen were in the habit of fishing in the North sea. But I would like to point out that the Question which my noble friend has put has nothing whatever to do with fishing. It relates to a serious outrage committed by an armed fleet of the Russians on our fishermen. Whether that outrage was committed for some political cause, and to try and save their name, or whether all on board were blind drunk and incapable, we have never yet heard; but it is an utter impossibility that any sailor could have mistaken trawlers for torpedo boats. I fully agree that it was not the unfortunate seamen who fired the guns or the officers, but the person in command of that fleet who was to blame for the committing of that outrage. When our Fleet goes to Russian ports it will be with the high officers of those ports that they will be in communication. It is between them that the civilities will take place. My noble friend is, therefore, fully entitled to put the Question, and I hope His Majesty's Government will return a favourable answer.

*LORD ELLENBOROUGH: My Lords, I do not know whether His Majesty's Government have sufficiently considered the extremely difficult position in which our officers and men will be placed if, during their visit to Russian ports, riotous or political demonstrations take place. They may have strict orders not to utter a single political opinion; but no one can prophesy when or where an outrage or riot will take place in Russia at this moment, and it would be extremely inconvenient if, when our sailors were on their way to any entertainment, they were met by a riotous procession. In that event some very disagreeable diplomatic complications might arise.

*LORD NUNBURNHOLME: My Lords, I rise to say a few words on this question because it is intimately connected with the city of Hull, which I represented in the other House for thirty-two years. Also at the time of the outrage I happened to be the chairman of a similar fishing company to the one attacked—a fishing company with some sixty steam trawlers and carriers occupied exactly in the same way as the fleet that suffered this outrage. It was only just by chance that our fleet did not suffer in the same way. I cannot help thinking that this Question is inopportune and unfortunate. It is two years since, and the feeling at that time in the city of Hull was very extreme, but it has, I believe, died out. A circumstance at the present time rather proves that. I am asked in a short time to unveil some memorial of the Russian outrage. I made inquiries, and found that the fishermen generally have not joined in this desire to perpetuate the memory of that event. It was, no doubt, a very terrible outrage, but I quite agree with the noble Lord opposite that the matter should now be allowed to rest. The fishing trade in the North Sea is a very big one, and it has a great many supporters who can take care of it. If there were any question of any feeling existing at the present moment it might have been desirable to raise the Question which my noble friend has placed upon the Paper. I know a great deal about the Russian trade. It is a very large one, and, in spite of all the difficulties and the misfortunes of the Czar and his country, in which we cannot help sympathising, an enormous trade is going on between England and both the Baltic and the Black Sea. I therefore feel sure that the Government will give no encouragement to the raising difficulties which I cannot help thinking would be very unfortunate in the present position of affairs.

LORD FITZMAURICE: My Lords, it used to be a favourite observation of the late Lord Derby when he was Foreign Minister that it was a good thing, wherever possible, to limit the area of European disturbance. Lord Derby was speaking of limiting disturbance in regard to place. I venture to think that your Lordships will believe it to be equally important to limit the area of disturbance in regard to time. The events to which the noble Lord has called attention by his Question happened some time ago. They represent an incident which is closed. Unfortunate as they were, they were undoubtedly owing to misapprehensions; and they have been, as regards the great interests more immediately affected, I will not say forgotten, but certainly forgiven. I might perhaps point out to the noble Lord that his Question almost carries with it its own answer. The noble Lord does not mean to suggest either that the sailors or the captains of ships, the Foreign Office, or the Admiralty have been asked, or are likely to be asked, to fraternise, for before anything could happen in the direction suggested by the noble Lord a request for fraternisation would have to arrive. I can assure the noble Lord that we have not received any request bearing on the Question, neither has the Admiralty, as far as I understand. But putting aside any technical advantage I might take of the form of the Question, I think that the great majority of your Lordships and the country at large will feel it is best in this matter to let bygones be bygones.

*THE EARL OF JERSEY: Do I understand the noble Lord to say that there will be no festivities on the occasion of the visit of the British Fleet to the Russian ports?

LORD FITZMAURICE: I did not say that.

*THE EARL OF JERSEY: If there are festivities there must assuredly be fraternisation. In this affair I was not referring to the fishing interests. I was referring to our Fleet going to Russia at this time when events of a most deplorable kind are taking place, thereby giving a kind of moral support to the Government of the Tsar.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Seven o'clock, till To-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 2nd July, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from the Judges appointed to try the several Election Petitions the following Certificate and Report relating to the Election for the South Eastern or Bodmin Division of the County of Cornwall.

> The Parliamentary Elections Act, 1868, The Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Acts, 1854–1895.
>
> Election of a Member of Parliament for the South Eastern or Bodmin Division of the County of Cornwall, holden on the 22nd day of January, 1906.

To the Right Honourable The Speaker of the House of Commons.

We, Sir William Grantham, Knight, and Sir John Compton Lawrance, Knight, Judges of the High Court of Justice, and two of the Judges on the Rota for the time being for the Trial of Election Petitions in England and Wales, do hereby Certify in pursuance of the said Acts that upon the 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, and 18th days of June, in this year, we duly held a Court at the Assize Courts, Bodmin, for the trial of, and did try the Election Petition for the South Eastern or Bodmin Division of the County of Cornwall, between William Henry Vallack, Tom and William Stuart Bruton Duff, Petitioners, and The Honourable

Thomas Charles Reginald Agar-Robartes, Respondent.

And in further pursuance of the said Acts We Certify that at the conclusion of the said trial, we determined that the said Thomas Charles Reginald Agar-Robartes, being the Member whose Election and Return were complained of in the said Petition was not duly elected and returned, and we do hereby certify in writing such our determination to you.

And whereas charges were made in the said Petition of Corrupt and Illegal Practices having been committed at the said Election, We, in further pursuance of the said Acts, Report as follows :—

1. That no corrupt or illegal practices were proved to have been committed by or with the knowledge or consent of any Candidate at the said Election.

2. That the person whose name appears in the First Schedule hereto was proved to have been guilty of the corrupt practice of treating.

3. That there is no reason to believe that corrupt or illegal practices have extensively prevailed at the said Election.

4. That the said Thomas Charles Reginald Agar-Robartes was guilty by his Agent of the corrupt practice of treating.

5. That a Certificate of Indemnity has been furnished to the person found guilty of treating whose name appears in the Second Schedule hereto.

And in further pursuance of the said Acts we hereby certify that at the conclusion of the said trial we differed as to whether the return concerning election expenses made under Section 33 of The Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Act, 1883, did or did not constitute a proper or sufficient return of the said election expenses.

A Copy of the Evidence and of our Judgments, taken down and written out at length by the Deputies of the Shorthand Writer of the House of Commons, accompanies this our Certificate.

The First Schedule.

Name of Person found guilty of Treating.

Charles Alfred Millman.

The Second Schedule.

Name of Person furnished with a Certificate of Indemnity.

Charles Alfred Millman.

Dated this 28th day of June, 1906.

WM. GRANTHAM.
J. C. LAWRANCE.

And the said Certificate and Report from Mr. Justice Grantham and Mr. Justice Lawrance, Judges of the High Court of Justice, were ordered to be entered in the Journals of this House.

Copy of Shorthand Writer's Notes of Judgment and Evidence laid upon the Table by Mr. Speaker.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.

Mr. SPEAKER informed the House that he had received from the Judges appointed to try the several Election Petitions the following Certificate and Report relating to the Election for the Attercliffe Division of the City of Sheffield:

In the High Court of Justice, King's Bench Division.

The Parliamentary Elections Act, 1868, and The Corrupt and Illegal Practices Prevention Acts, 1883 and 1895.

The Election for the Attercliffe Division of the City of Sheffield, holden on the 15th day of January, 1906.

To the Right Honourable The Speaker of the House of Commons.

We, Sir William Grantham, Knight, and Sir Joseph Walton, Knight, Judges of the High Court of Justice, and two of the Judges on the Rota for the time being for the Trial of Election Petitions in England and Wales, do hereby Certify in pursuance of the said Acts that upon the 25th and 26th days of June of this year we duly held a Court at the Town Hall, Sheffield, for the Trial of and did try the Election Petition for the Attercliffe Division of the City of Sheffield, between Arnold Muir Wilson, Petitioner, and Batty Langley, Respondent. And in further pursuance of the said Acts We Certify that at the conclusion of the said trial We determined that the said Batty

Langley, being the Member whose Election and Return were complained of in the said Petition, was duly elected and returned, and that his Election was not void, and We do hereby Certify such our determination to you.

And whereas charges were made in the said Petition that the illegal practices therein specified had been committed in reference to the said Election, We, in further pursuance of the said Acts, Report as follows :—

1. That no illegal practice was proved to have been committed by, or with the knowledge and consent of, the said Batty Langley.

2. That no persons were proved to have been guilty of any illegal practices.

3. That there is no reason to believe that illegal practices have extensively prevailed at the said election.

4. That the said Batty Langley was not proved to have been guilty by his Agents of any illegal practice.

Wm. Grantham.
Joseph Lawson.

Dated this 28th day of June, 1906.

And the said Certificate and Report from Mr. Justice Grantham and Mr. Justice Walton, Judges of the High Court of Justice, were ordered to be entered in the Journals of this House.

Copy of Shorthand Writer's Notes of Judgment and Evidence laid upon the Table by Mr. Speaker.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS [Lords] (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Devon, &c.) Bill [Lords]; Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 1) Bill [Lords]; Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesteven, &c.) Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time To-morrow.

Merthyr Tydfil Gas Bill, Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Bill [Lords]; Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with an Amendment.

Trent Navigation Company Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

County of Durham Electric Power Supply Bill [Lords]; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Bill [Lords]; to be read a second time To-morrow.

Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill. Reported, with Amendments [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table. Bill, as amended, to be considered To-morrow.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill; Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill, without Amendment.

Municipal Corporations Bill, with an Amendment.

Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to authorise the construction of further waterworks and the taking of water from the River Bure for the purpose of affording increased supplies of water by the Great Yarmouth Waterworks Company and the Lowestoft Water and Gas Company; to confer further powers upon those companies with reference to their respective undertakings; and for other purposes." [Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [Lords].

Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP 8).

Sir Louis McIver reported from the Committee on Group 8 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Wednesday, at Twelve of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY BILL.

Mr. MORTON (Sutherland) objected.

Colonel LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping) said that when the Bill was under discussion his name was mentioned as having given a certain undertaking. He did not reply at the time, as he did not wish to prolong the debate, but with the permission of the House he would now state that he had informed the railway companies of the views entertained by the hon. Member for Sutherland and others. The companies were fully alive to the importance of the questions involved, and were considering the question in all its aspects.

Mr. MORTON on this withdrew his objection.

Bill read a third time and passed.

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; From Allerton, Bywater, and Castleford; Allhallows; Amble; Beech Hill; Harwich; and, Newcastle-on-Tyne; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; From Brierley Hill (two); and, Tansley; to lie upon the Table.

LAND TENURE BILL.

Petition from Stirling, against; to lie upon the Table.

LAND VALUES TAXATION, &c. (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Stirling, against; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE.

Petition from Sydenham and Forest Hill, for reduction; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

CRIMINAL AND JUDICIAL STATISTICS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Criminal and Judicial Statistics of (Ireland) for the year 1905. Part II. Civil Statistics [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

Accounts presented, of all Deposits received and paid during the year ended December 31st, 1905, together with a Statement showing the aggregate amount of the liabilities of the Government to Depositors in the Post Office Savings Banks on December 31st, 1905, and the nature and amount of the Securities held by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt to meet those Liabilities at that date [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 230.]

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated June 28th, 1906, declaring that Edward Wallace, Boy, Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield War Office, was appointed without a Civil Service Certificate, through inadvertence on the part of the Head of his Department [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copies presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3658 and 3661 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Regulations for the Training of Teachers and for the Examination of Students in Training Colleges [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

OSBORNE.

Copy presented, of Report by the House Governor and Medical Superintendent at Osborne for the year ending March 31st, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE:—

1. Richmond Bridge, Cash Account for the year 1905 [by Act].

ELECTRIC LIGHTING ACTS, 1882 TO 1902 (APPLICATIONS AND APPEALS TO BOARD OF TRADE).

Return ordered, "respecting the Applications to and Proceedings of the Board of Trade upon Applications for Provisional Orders and Appeals to the Board of Trade, respecting Electricity Undertakings for Session 1896 to Session 1905 (both inclusive):—

1. Applications for Provisional Orders under the Electric Lighting Acts, Session 1896 to Session 1905 (both inclusive):—

Section 1. In respect of areas in the administrative county of London.

Section 2. In respect of other areas.

Session.	Number of Applications.		Number of Orders granted.		Number subsequently transferred—	
	Local Authorities.	Companies.	Local Authorities.	Companies.	To Local Authorities.	To Companies.

Session.	List of Cases in which Local Authority consent was dispensed with.	List of Cases in which Orders were refused to Companies on Opposition of Local Authority.	List of Cases in which competing Applications were made by Local Authority and a Company, with result.	List and particulars of Cases in which Promoters declined to accept an Order on account of conditions imposed by Board of Trade.

2. Appeals to Board of Trade in regard to works during ten years ended March, 1906:—

Section 1. Administrative county of London—
  (a) by local authorities;
  (b) by companies.
Section 2. Other Areas—
  (a) by local authorities;
  (b) by companies.

Date of Appeal.	Order.	Name and Description of Applicant.	Object of Appeal.	State if Appeal was Opposed or Approved by Local Authorities.	Decision of Board of Trade.

3. Applications and Appeals to Board of Trade in regard to change of pressure during ten years ended March, 1906:—

Section 1. Administrative county of London—
(a) by local authorities;
(b) by companies.

Section 2. Other areas—
(a) by local authorities;
(b) by companies.

Date of Application or Appeal.	Order.	Name and Description of Applicant.	State if Opposed or Approved by Local Authority.	Decision of Board of Trade.	Actual Pressure—	
					At date of Application.	As Altered.

4. Applications by local authorities for approval of Board of Trade in regard to hours of access to street boxes during ten years ended March, 1906:—

Section 1. Administrative county of London.
Section 2. Other areas.

Date of Application.	Order.	Name and Description of Applicant.	Decision of Board of Trade.

—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

Railways in British Protectorates, Leased Territories, and Colonies (other than the Transvaal and Orange River Colony) not possessing responsible Institutions, Address for "Return showing (1) the ownership and length of the Railways (a) in operation, (b) under construction, (c) authorised; (2) the methods, including State guarantees, if any, by which the funds for the construction of the Railways have been or are being raised; (3) the total capital expenditure incurred or authorised, together with the latest figures as to the gross annual revenue derived from the existing lines of Railway, and the corresponding working expenses."—(*Mr. Walker.*)

VOLUNTEER BRIGADES.

Address for "Return of the distribution of Provincial Volunteer Corps into Brigades and of the names of the officers appointed to command the Volunteer Provincial Brigades, showing their present age, place of residence, and their antecedent service either with the regular Army, the Militia, or the Volunteer Force, and the military scientific training they have passed through, such as the Staff College, the Royal Military Academies, or the School of Musketry."—(*Sir Howard Vincent.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

The Proposed Transfer of Workmen from Chatham Dockyard.

MR. E. H. LAMB (Rochester): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, after the representations made to the Government, the decision of the Admiralty to remove 200 men from Chatham to other dockyards is still to be adhered to; and, if not, whether he can put an end to the anxiety felt in Rochester and Chatham by announcing the present intentions of the Admiralty in this matter without delay.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) It is not proposed to transfer these men to other yards.

Sick Pay for Mr. Carmody, Sorter at Mount Pleasant Parcel Office.

MR. J. P. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): To ask the Postmaster-General if his attention has been called to the case of the sorter, Mr. Carmody, of the Mount Pleasant parcel office, whose pay was stopped for ten days in June, 1905, notwithstanding he was certified unfit for duty by the official medical officer for Limerick, and who has been further punished by having his increment deferred during the present year; and whether he will inquire into the merits of his case.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I have already personally investigated the case of Mr. Carmody, and I am satisfied that his absence from duty in June, 1905, was not properly covered by medical certificate. Sick pay could not therefore be allowed to him. It was necessary to defer his increment, which otherwise would have accrued in April last, until a certificate of twelve months approved service could be given. This certificate I am glad to learn was given on July 1st, and in that case the increment will be allowed from that date.

Post Office Servants—Entries on Defaulter Sheets.

MR. J. P. NANNETTI: To ask the Postmaster-General what is the departmental rule in regard to making entries against a man on his official record sheet; if an officer applies would he be supplied with a copy of the entries made against him; if trivial reports made against a man by an official, on being dismissed in the man's favour after investigation by superior and competent authority, are recorded against the man on his record sheet; and whether an official is allowed to cause entries to be made against a man simply because he, the official, suspected, reported, and attempted to show that the man had committed an offence against discipline, notwithstanding the fact that the man proved his innocence of committing any disciplinary offence, and the reports falling through.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I am not sure what is the precise information desired by the hon. Member in answer to the first part of his Question. An officer would be supplied on application with a copy of the entries made against him. The Answer to the remaining parts of the Question is in the negative.

Report of Departmental Committee on Death Duties.

MR. SEARS (Cheltenham): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will give the date when the Committee was appointed which considered the question of assessment and collection of death duties, which sat in 1898 under the chairmanship of the present Secretary of State for War; and where the evidence given and the Report of the Committee are to be seen.

(*Answered by Mr. Asquith.*) The Committee was appointed in 1898, and reported to the Treasury early in 1899. The Report was treated as confidential, in accordance with the practice usual in respect of the Reports of Departmental Committees on establishments, and was not published.

Rex *v.* Watt—Cost of Deportation of the Witness Shuttle.

MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under which Vote in the Estimates the special service fund (at the expense of which the witness Shuttle, in the case of Rex *v.* Watt was sent to Canada) will appear.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The special service fund is not provided in the Votes of Parliament, but by a charge on the Consolidated Fund, forming part of the civil list charge, as the hon. Member will see on reference to page 43 of the annual Finance Accounts.

Commission of the Peace—Fees and Stamp Duties.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): To ask Mr. Attorney-General whether he will state what are the total fees payable, by stamp duty and otherwise, by gentlemen appointed to His Majesty's Commission of the Peace in England, because of their appointment.

(*Answered by Sir John Walton.*) The only amount payable to Crown officials by English magistrates on their appointment to His Majesty's Commission of the Peace is the sum of one pound, payable to the Exchequer on the insertion of the names, irrespective of number, in a Commission of the Peace. With regard to the fees payable locally to clerks of the peace I beg to refer you to my replies to the hon. Member for the Guildford Division of Surrey on May 2nd and June 14th respectively.†

Kew Garden Employees—Right of Combination.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, if his attention has been called to the notice posted at the Royal Botanic Gardens, to the effect that any person employed in the Royal Botanic Gardens who desires to make a complaint must send it in writing, with the complainant's name, to the curator, who will lay it before the director, and to the effect that it is strictly forbidden to make a complaint through an outside person, and any case of the kind will be regarded by the director as a serious breach of discipline; and will he say whether, in view of the right to negotiate through their representatives recently conceded to the workers of several Government Departments, he will have the notice removed, in order that the workmen at the Royal Botanic Gardens might enjoy the same privilege as the men in other Departments.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) My noble friend the President of the Board gave directions in February last that the same procedure should be followed with respect to representations made by or on behalf of the men employed at Kew Gardens as that sanctioned in the case of Post Office servants. The notice referred to by my hon. friend was issued in 1903, and it is now in course of revision.

Importation of Live Cattle for Immediate Slaughter—Suggested Removal of Restriction.

DR. COOPER (Southwark, Bermondsey): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture whether, as there has not been a case of foot-and-mouth disease either in Denmark or Holland for three years, and, according to the Return of the German Imperial Board of Agriculture, no case of foot-and-mouth disease for more than a year in Schleswig-Holstein, Oldenburg, Hanover, Westphalia, or the Rhine provinces, the Board of Agriculture will consider the advisability of at once removing the restrictions at present imposed on the importation of live cattle and sheep for immediate slaughter at the Deptford Foreign Cattle Market.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) The experience of the last fifteen years has shown that, owing no doubt to their geographical situation, outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease may be expected to occur both in Denmark and Holland from time to time, and this being the case, and in view of the terms of the Disease of Animals Act, 1894, my noble friend regrets that he cannot consistently with his statutory duty make any modifications in the restrictions referred to. I may add that twenty-one cattle were attacked with the disease in Denmark in 1904, and that there were two cases in Holland in the same year.

Indian Army Officers and Service with Militia during South African War.

MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): To ask the Secretary of State for India, are officers who, previous to joining the Indian Army, served in the Militia during the South African war with Army rank, and who, under the terms of War Office letter No 6/163d, June, 1905, are allowed to count such embodied or war service towards pension or gratuity in the British service, permitted to count it towards pension and promotion in the Indian Army in the same way as they would be allowed to count it if, at the time, they had borne commissions in the Regular Forces; and, if not, will he explain why not.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) Officers of the Indian Army are allowed to reckon as service for Indian pension their service out of India before joining the Indian Army, to an extent not exceeding two years, and service in the embodied Militia is considered as service out of India for this propose. Promotion in the Indian Army is regulated by service from date of first permanent commission, and, therefore, under regulation, time in the embodied Militia does not reckon as service for promotion. It is the practice, however, specially to allow any such time passed on field service to reckon for promotion.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvi., 561 ; clviii., 1148.

Indian Educational Expenditure.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that in the last quinquennial report on the education of the Government of India, compiled by Mr. Nathan, of the Indian Civil Service, the amount of direct expenditure on elementary education out of State funds, apart from fees and local funds, was stated to be only £90,000 for the year 1901–2, the last year for which figures were given; and will he state what corresponding amount was spent by the State during last year.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I am not yet in a position to answer this Question, but I hope very shortly to receive from the Government of India a reply to the inquiry which I addressed to them when the hon. Member first gave notice of the Question.

Alleged Wrongful Imprisonment of Ryots at Backergunj.

MR. O'GRADY: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the fact that Mr. Lack, the settlement officer at Barisal, has been complained against for wrongful imprisonment of the tenants (ryots) of two lady zemindars of Backergunj and other persons in the locality; that the complaint was dismissed by the local magistrate, Mr. Emerson, in his private room, without a hearing, as frivolous and false; whether such action lies within the power of Mr. Emerson; and whether, in view of the state of public feeling in the new province, he will say what steps he intends to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) As I stated in answer to a Question on the 21st June,† I have no information as to the facts, but I will inquire and consider whether any action is necessary.

Irish Society and the Professor of Irish at Trinity College, Dublin.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Irish Society nominates the professor of Irish in Trinity College, Dublin, and pays his salary, or whether the professor is subject to the jurisdiction of the board of the college in the same manner as all other professors.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Irish Government have no official information upon this subject, but the Question has been referred to the Provost of Trinity College, who states that in the year 1840 a number of gentlemen connected with the Irish Society subscribed a sum of money to aid in the foundation of a professorship of Irish in the university, but the society, as such, had no part in the foundation of the chair. The then board of Trinity College, in agreeing to this foundation, undertook to pay annually the difference between the interest of this sum and £100 a year, to provide for the study of the Irish language, pending the further collection of funds for the endowment of the chair. Public subscriptions raised the fund to a figure which when invested in Bank of Ireland stock gives on an average £100 a year. In the year 1871, by a decree of the board and visitors, the salary paid by the college itself was raised to £100 a year, so that the total salary of the professor is about £200. The funds subscribed by the public are invested in the names of the provost and fellows of Trinity College and the professor of Irish, and the election of the professor is vested in the trustees, who at present are the provost and the two Parliamentary representatives of the university *ex officio* together with Lord Ashbourne and Lord Ardilaum, who were co-opted some years ago by the then *ex officio* trustees under powers given to them by the deed of trust. These two latter trustees have never taken any action in connection with the chair. The professor, like other professors, is subject to the jurisdiction of the board, and no other body has any authority or jurisdiction over him.

Erection of Labourers' Cottages.

MR. P. A. McHUGH (Sligo, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what action has been taken by local authorities with regard to the representations for the erection of forty-eight labourers' cottages which were forwarded by the Estates Commissioners to the Local Government Board and district councils in the period from November 1st, 1903, to March 31st, 1905, under Section 96 of the Land Act of 1903.

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† See Col. 350.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed that, as a general rule, no action has been taken by the rural district councils concerned in relation to such representations. In a few instances the consideration of the matter has been postponed until the council are making a new improvement scheme under the Labourers Acts, as the expense of making and carrying through a scheme for one or two cottages included in a representation would be entirely out of proportion to the result. To remedy this defect, a clause has been inserted in the Bill now before Parliament, providing that the representation shall practically be a scheme taking effect forthwith where the Local Government Board so order. A table will be appended to the Board's Annual Report for 1905–6, showing up to March 31st last the name of each rural district affected, the nature of the representations made, and the action, if any, taken thereon.

Sale of Estates in County Sligo.

MR. O'DOWD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the number of estates sold to tenants in the county of Sligo, and sanctioned by the Estates Commissioners, from the coming into operation of the Act of 1903 to the date of the last Return, the number sold by private treaty, and of those sold through the Estates Commission, with the average number of years' purchase given in each case respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that since the commencement of the Act they have made advances in the case of fourteen estates in Sligo sold direct by landlords to tenants, the average number of years' purchase of the tenanted land being 23·6. In the same period four estates in county Sligo were purchased by and vested in the Estates Commissioners, the average number of years' purchase of the tenanted land being 21. The Commissioners have no information as to sales effected by private treaty.

The De Freyne Estate—Construction of a Road to the Village of Sheepwalk.

MR. JAMES O'KELLY (Roscommon, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will explain why, although the Congested Districts Board has purchased the estate of Lord De Freyne, no attempt has been made to provide a proper approach to the village of Sheepwalk; and whether he is aware that the want of such approach is causing great inconvenience to the population from day to day.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Congested Districts Board have included, in their proposed scheme for the improvement of the De Freyne estate, the construction of a road to the village of Sheepwalk. The work, however, cannot be commenced until the estate has been legally vested in the Board.

Evicted Tenant on the Madden Estate—Case of M. A. Kiernan.

MR. T. SMYTH (Leitrim, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware of the fact that an evicted tenant named M. A. Kiernan, residing at Aughakiltubrid, Cloone, county Leitrim, on the Madden estate, which has been sold recently to the tenants at twenty-four-and-a-half years' purchase, was refused the right to purchase by the landlord, unless the amount of the arrears of rent due was added to the purchase money; and if he will call the attention of the Estates Commissioners to this case, so that the evicted tenant may get the same terms as the other tenants who have purchased their holdings.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that the former holding of Mary A. Kiernan is included in the lands for the sale of which the owner has lodged an originating application, but no purchase agreement in respect thereof has been lodged. Mrs. Kiernan's application for reinstatement will be inquired into by the Commissioners when they are dealing with the estate.

Withdrawal of Grant from Corlea School.

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Commissioners of Education in Ireland have given notice that they will withdraw all grants from Corlea school after June 31st next, being a vested school under Church of Ireland management; how long these grants have been in existence; and whether the Commissioners of Education have made any arrangements for the religious instruction of the pupils attending Corlea school in the event of that school being closed and the children compelled to attend the nearest school, which is under Presbyterian management.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that by order of February 13th, 1906, they directed the withdrawal of grants from Corlea school from June 30th, upon the ground that it is no longer required, as there is sufficient provision for the education of the pupils at other national schools in the locality. The school is under Irish Church management, but is non-vested. It has been in connection with the Board since 1859. Thirteen of the pupils belong to the Irish Church, twelve are Presbyterians, and five are Roman Catholics. Two schools are available for the pupils, namely, Gillygooley, one-and-a-half miles distant, under Irish Church management; and Aughee, one-and-a-quarter miles distant, under Presbyterian management. As the latter school is a vested school clergymen have, under the Board's rules, the right of access to the pupils of their own denomination for the purposes of religious instruction in the school.

Refusal of Chief Secretary to Receive a Deputation from Irish Protestant Teachers Union.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he declined to receive a deputation of the Irish Protestant National Teachers Union; and, if so, on what grounds.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I informed the committee of this organisation that, owing to the many matters of immediate importance which called for my attention, I found it impossible to receive a deputation, but at the same time I told them that I should be happy to consider any written statement of the matters which they desired to bring to my notice. I have since received a statement from the committee and will give it due consideration, but the question raised in it is largely one for the Commissioners of National Education.

Evicted Tenants in County Kerry.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether an inspector has been sent to inquire into the cases of evicted tenants in Kerry; and, if so, whether he can report any reinstatements.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that one of their inspectors has been inquiring into the cases of evicted tenants in Kerry for some time past, but he has as yet reported no reinstatements as the result of his operations. Negotiations for reinstatement are, however, proceeding in a number of cases.

Purchase of Mr. Walsh's Estate at Castletown, County Kilkenny.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether an application has been made by Mr. Walsh, the owner of an estate at Castletown, county Kilkenny, to the Estates Commissioners, for the purchase of the estate from him; if so, when; whether a large proportion of this estate consists of evicted holdings in his possession; and whether, with a view to the restoration of these tenants, the Estates Commissioners will direct an inspector to visit the lands without delay.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that on January 22nd last Mr. Peter Walsh offered his estate for sale to the Estates Commissioners under Section 6 of the Act of 1903. The property comprises 165 acres in the occupation of tenants, as well as 129 acres of untenanted land which Mr. Walsh wishes to repurchase. The Commissioners have received applications from five evicted tenants for reinstatement in their former holdings on this estate. The case will shortly come before the Commissioners for their directions as to an inspection of the property.

King's Scholars' Examination—Books Recommended.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if his attention has been called to the fact that in the programme for the King's Scholars' examination for 1907, formulated by the Irish Commissioners for National Education, dated March last, amongst the books recommended for general reading, along with the works of authors like Shakespeare, Goldsmith, Scott, and Stevenson, is included "Some experiences of an Irish R. M."; can he state what official is responsible for this selection; and can nothing more useful be officially recommended to King's Scholars.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the Commissioners of National Education that they are themselves responsible for the selection of the book referred to, which is considered to be suitable for general reading.

Cases of James Clancy and William Francis—Award of Arbitrator.

MR. FFRENCH (Wexford, S): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Wexford District Council, at a recent meeting, condemned by resolution the action of the arbitrator, Mr. Cliff Owen, by which he awarded, in the case of James Clancy and William Francis, £15 and £21 17s. 6d. respectively, whilst the council's offer was £5 and £8 10s.; whether he can state the basis by which the arbitrator arrived at the award; and if he will make provision in the Labourers' Bill to prevent awards of this kind.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Local Government Board have received the resolution referred to. The facts, however, are not correctly stated in the Question. In the case of James Clancy, who claims £10, the council offered £5, and the arbitrator awarded £8 10s., of which £1 was allowed for special injury to the claimant's lands. In the case of William Francis, who claimed £37 10s., the council offered £15, and the arbitrator awarded £21 17s. 6d. The arbitrator arrived at his decision after taking into consideration the sworn evidence of all the parties and after inspection of the plots. It is not proposed to make any alteration of the law as regards arbitration.

Condition of Terryglass (County Tipperary) Graveyard.

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will cause the Local Government Board to institute an inquiry into the condition of the Terryglass, county Tipperary, graveyard, now reduced to a commonage for cattle owing to the falling of the protecting wall, with the object of ascertaining who is responsible for the state to which the graves and headstones have been reduced, and of compelling those legally liable to at once put the place in proper repair.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Local Government Board informed the rural district council in November last that, as the burial ground in question is attached or contiguous to a place of worship, the provisions of Section 185 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, do not apply to the case; and the Board suggested that the council should address the representative church body, in whom the burial ground is vested, and urge them to carry out the necessary repairs. The Board have not since received information that anything has been done, and they are not aware of any remedy in the matter unless the district council are prepared to take upon themselves the responsibility of executing the repairs needed.

Labourers' Cottages at Athenry.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether the attention of the Local Government Board has been directed to a set of resolutions passed by the townspeople of Athenry on the 24th ultimo; is he aware that a mistake in the measurement of the labourers' cottages has been discovered; that the Antiquarian Society claim 22 feet of the gardens all about and around the old King's Castle of Athenry, and that a drain, 16 feet wide and 90 feet long, also runs through the land on which one of the cottages has been built; and what steps do the Local Government Board propose to take in order to protect the rights of these labouring men.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I understand from the Local Government Board that representations to the effect stated in the Question were made some time ago to the district council, but it was found on investigation that these representations were not correct. The Town Tenants' Association at Athenry has recently forwarded to the Board and to the district council a resolution on the subject. The council, having regard to the previous investigation, declined to take any further action in the matter, and the same view was taken by the local Government Board.

Purchases of Untenanted Land on the Cusack Estate.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now state the result of the negotiations by the Estates Commissioners for the purchase of the untenanted lands on the Cusack, county Longford, estate; whether the solicitor in charge, Mr. Daniels, has made any further motion to delay sale; and when a definite decision will be given.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed that the Estates Commissioners' offer for the purchase of this estate, including both the tenanted and untenanted land, has now been accepted by the Land Judge. The registrar of the court informs me that there are no grounds for the suggestion that the solicitor has endeavoured to delay the sale.

Distribution of Bog on the Granard Estate.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any complaint has reached the Land Commission as to distribution of bog on the Granard estate; whether in several cases tenants have been deprived of turbary guaranteed to them under their vesting orders; and, if so, will an inquiry be made by an inspector as to their cases, and the possibilities of getting turbary supplies for them elsewhere on the same estate.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am afraid I can add nothing to the very full reply given by my right hon. friend the Attorney-General for Ireland to the hon. Member's Question of February 26th.† If any tenant purchaser has been deprived of his legal rights he has his remedy at law. The Land Commissioners have, I am informed, no power to intervene in the matter with the object of procuring turbary for the tenant purchasers, and no purpose, therefore, would be served by their having an inquiry made.

Elephant Marsh Game Reserve, Central Africa.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the facts that the elephant marsh game reserve extends up to Chironio town, which lions actually enter, so that the inhabitants go in fear of their lives; that several lives have been lost; that destruction of lions within the reserve is not permitted; that game of the same class as is preserved in this reserve exists in other parts of the British Central Africa Protectorate, where also game reserves have been established; that Chironio is a town growing in size, population, and importance; that complaints do not proceed from local planters, but from the inhabitants of the town; that no claim is put forward, or application made, for any of the land included in the reserve for cultivation, or for speculative purposes; and whether, in view of these facts, and for the reason also that injudicious reservation is prejudicial to the cause of game protection in Africa, the Government will consider the propriety of calling upon the Commissioner to amend the boundaries of the elephant marsh reserve, so as to remove it to a safe distance from the township of Chironio.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) As I informed my hon. friend on May 14th,‡ the Secretary of State has already addressed the Commissioner of the British Central Africa Protectorate on the subject referred to in this Question, and he proposes to await the reply to his despatch before taking any further action.

Kaffirs Employed in the Transvaal.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will state the number of Kaffirs employed in the Transvaal Colony on May 31st, 1906, by the Public Works Department, by the military authorities, in domestic service, and in trade generally respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The latest figures received of natives holding passports and working in labour districts of the Transvaal are those for April 30th, which give 95,458 for mines and works, and 84,522 for other employ, but they do not show how this last number is distributed among various employments.

Extension of Railway from Djibuti to Harrar.

MR. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can make any communication to the House regarding the extension inland of the railway from Djibuti to Harrar.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clii., 793.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clvii., 175–6.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The matter still being under negotiation, I am unable at present to afford the hon. Member the desired information.

Small Holdings Committee—Witnesses from Caithness.

MR. R. L. HARMSWORTH (Caithness-shire): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, if he will state the names of witnesses from Caithness who gave evidence before the departmental committee of the Board of Agriculture when in Scotland recently to inquire into the subject of small holdings; if he will state the qualifications of the witnesses to give evidence on the subject of small holdings; whether the witnesses' expenses were paid out of public moneys; and whether any fees were received by the witnesses.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) I have communicated with Lord Onslow, the chairman of the committee, and he desires me to say that the names of the witnesses referred to are Mr. John Miller, of Brabsterdorran, and Mr. James Nicolson, of Watten. Mr. Miller is a parish councillor, who rents a small holding and has made a lifelong study of the land question, and Mr. Nicolson is a factor who has the management of several estates on which a number of small holdings exist. No fees are paid to witnesses, but they receive their travelling expenses and subsistence allowance on the usual Treasury scale, the cost being defrayed from the Vote for Temporary Commissions.

Cambridge Cottage, Kew.

CAPTAIN BALFOUR (Middlesex, Hornsey): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, if he can state whether any steps will be taken during the present year to carry out the intention of the Government to utilise the house and grounds of Cambridge Cottage, Kew Gardens, as a museum illustrative of forestry, pomology, and the diseases of farm and garden crops.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) We have addressed representations on this subject to the Treasury, but our proposals have not been sanctioned, and I am afraid that there is no prospect of the necessary funds becoming available during the present financial year.

Return of Battleships.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that five battleships, which are described as first-class battleships in the recent Return (Fleets of the Powers) issued to Parliament, were, in the last Statement of Admiralty Policy, issued by Lord Cawdor in November, 1905, characterised as so defective that even if two millions were spent on them the nation would merely have acquired indifferent ships, three-quarters worn out, and so poorly protected as to be vulnerable to second-class cruisers; and whether he can explain how these vessels came to be included in a Return which has been widely quoted as showing our great strength in first-class battleships.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) Ships whose armaments have not been surrendered or reduced are classified in this Return as heretofore.

American Gambling Operations in Tin—Danger to Home Trade.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that, owing to American gambling in warrants in tin in London, a corner was lately formed and the price thereby artificially raised to £203 per ton, thus entailing loss to British manufacturers in Birmingham, the Midlands, and South Wales, and that, owing to the action of a bear clique in London, the corner has collapsed and the price has already declined in a state of panic some £29 per ton, or to £174, thereby again disorganising the whole trade, besides jeopardising the newly developed mining industry in Cornwall; and whether he can state what steps His Majesty's Government intend to take in order to prevent a recurrence of these gambling operations, with the object of protecting legitimate commerce and home industries.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) I am aware that the price of tin in London rose from £160 5s. per ton at the end of 1905, to £213 at May 15th, 1906. Since that date the price has declined almost continuously, and on June 28th, it stood at £177 15s. Both the rise and fall appear to be due to a combination of causes among which no doubt speculation has been an important factor. Other causes are the state of the world's supply and stocks of tin, and the conditions prevailing in the tinplate trade. I do not consider that any steps could usefully be taken by His Majesty's Government in this matter.

Great Southern and Western Railway Company and Mr. Peter Dowling's Water Supply.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the Great Southern and Western Railway Company have been in the habit of cutting away the water supply from the mill of Mr. Peter Dowling, Straboe, Maryborough, Queen's County, which passes under their line, causing loss and inconvenience to the millowner and his customers, which they decline to pay compensation for; and will he see that this practice on the part of the railway company is discontinued.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) My attention had not previously been called to the matter referred to by the hon. Member, but it is not one in which the Board of Trade appear to have any power to intervene.

Danger from Sparks from Engines on the Great Southern and Western Railway (Ireland).

MR. DELANY: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that extensive damage has been done to residents along the Great Southern and Western Railway (Ireland) in consequence of sparks flying from their engines igniting hay, straw, and dwelling-houses situated adjacent to the line; whether he is aware that the company are using new and powerful locomotives, without the necessary safeguards to control sparks being attached; and will he see that proper restrictions shall be enforced to protect the property of those living along the line.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) No complaint of the damage referred to by the hon. Member has been received by the Board of Trade, but in any case the Department have no powers which would enable them to take the action suggested.

State Grant to Catholic Elementary Schools in Manchester, Preston, Southampton, and Bristol.

MR. C. J. O'DONNELL (Newington, Walworth): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he can state what is the amount per child of State grant and of rate aid for Catholic elementary schools of Manchester, Preston, Southampton, and Bristol for the last ended financial year.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Board have no information as to the sums spent upon voluntary schools (as distinct from the council schools) from the rates. The gross annual expenditure per child on maintenance in respect of council and voluntary schools taken together, during the most recent year for which figures are available, was in Manchester £4 4s. 0d., in Preston £2 9s. 7d., in Southampton £4 6s. 11d., and in Bristol £3 12s. 1d. These figures include the amounts contributed from Exchequer grants and from the rates, and from other sums, if any, received from fees, or endowments, or other sources. So far as can be gathered from the records, the total Exchequer grants, including the special aid grant under Section 10 of The Education Act, 1902, paid in respect of the same year, amounted, so far as the Catholic schools only in these towns are concerned, to an average of £1 19s. 7½d. per child in the case of the twenty-five Catholic schools in Manchester, taken together; to £2 0s. 9d. in the case of the seven Catholic schools in Preston; to £1 19s. 9d. in the case of the two Catholic schools in Southampton; and to £2 0s. 6½d. in the case of the five Catholic schools in Bristol.

Pensions Withheld from Inmates of Irish Lunatic Asylums.

MR. COGAN (Wicklow, E.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he has, as promised, looked into the question of pensions withheld from the inmates of Irish lunatic asylums, and if he is now able to state that a sum equivalent to the amount so withheld will be paid into the local taxation account, or to make the pensions payable to the persons who are dependent on the pensioners.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I have looked into this question, and I find that no pensions have been withheld from the inmates of Irish lunatic asylums, which could legally have been paid to them. After making the deduction, if any, necessitated explicitly by Section 7 of the Superannuation Act of 1887, the net pension is paid to the local authority which is responsible for the maintenance of the pensioner in the asylum. If it is more than sufficient to cover the cost of his maintenance therein, the balance, after deducting the cost of such maintenance, is paid to his representatives.

Loans Under the Housing of the Working Class Act.

MR. ARMITAGE (Leeds, Central): To ask the President of the Local Government Board what loans have been allowed during the last two years under the Housing of the Working Class Act repayable over eighty years.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The number of loans of the kind referred to in the Question is twenty-two, and they amount to the sum of £258,962. I shall be happy to give my hon. friend a list of them if he so desires. I may add that the number above stated is exclusive of several loans which comprise not only items of expenditure for which eighty years would be allowed, but also other items for which a shorter term would be granted. In such cases an equated period of less than eighty years has been fixed for the repayment of the whole loan.

Assaults by Natives on British Soldiers Stationed in the Himalayas.

MR. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will communicate to the House any particulars regarding assaults alleged to have been committed this summer by natives of India upon British soldiers occupying stations in the Himalayas.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I regret to have no information available, but will address the Government of India on the subject.

Harbour Improvements at Wicklow, Arklow, and Portavogie.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what progress has been made with the work of harbour improvements at Wicklow, Arklow, and Portavogie, for which provision was made in the Vote for the Ireland Development Grant of 1905–6.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) In each of the cases mentioned further progress awaits action by the local bodies concerned. Wicklow: The sum of £10,000 as a maximum is to be paid to local authorities undertaking the works, subject to the approval by Government of the plans, and to the certificate of the Government engineer as to the execution of the works. Arklow: The Government await the receipt from the Harbour Board of plans and estimates for the proposed works. Portavogie: The County Council of Down have submitted plans and estimates for a scheme entirely different from that originally proposed by them and accepted by the right hon. Gentleman when in office. This fact was pointed out to the Council on 16th May last, but no further communication has yet been received from them.

Mullaranny and Belmullet Railway—Intention of the Government.

MR. WALTER LONG: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is now able to make an announcement respecting the intentions of the Government as to the construction of a line of railway between Mullaranny and Belmullet?

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am not at present in a position to make any statement on this subject which, owing to the number of alternative schemes and the difficulty of finding funds, is one of great complexity.

Extension of Cavan and Leitrim Railway.

MR. WALTER LONG: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is in a position to make a statement with respect to the extensions of the Cavan and Leitrim railway, for which provision was made in the Vote for the Ireland Development Grant of 1905–6.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I understand that progress in this matter has been interrupted by local opposition, which has manifested itself in an expressed intention on the part of the County Council to oppose the necessary legislation to be promoted by the railway company. In these circumstances the Government, while regretting the interruption in the progress of what they regard as a useful scheme, are unable to interfere.

Hillas Estate, Templeboy—Case of Patrick Foley.

MR. P. A. McHUGH: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the purchase of the Hillas estate, Templeboy, county Sligo, has been completed; whether he is aware that a tenant on this estate named Patrick Foley, of Dunowla, Templeboy, is being threatened with eviction for non-payment of £11 10s., one and a-half year's rent, by the agent on this estate, Mr. Richard Robinson, of Sligo, unless he agrees to purchase at a price fixed by the agent; that this tenant was evicted in 1895, and his house thrown down, and afterwards admitted as a future tenant on payment of £67 2s. 1d. by himself and a brother in America; and whether he will ask the Estates Commissioners to investigate the case of this tenant, with a view to prevent undue pressure being put upon him by the agent?

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that the originating application for the sale of this estate was lodged on the 11th April last, and will be dealt with in its order of priority. The Commissioners have no knowledge of the circumstances mentioned in the Question, but, before sanctioning the advances applied for, the Commissioners will duly inquire into the circumstances under which no purchase agreement has been lodged in the case of Patrick Foley, a tenant on the estate.

Purchase of Errieff Grazing Farm.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether negotiations are going on between a grazier and the owner of a grazing farm called Errieff, on the Phibbs estate in the parish of Keelogues, near Castlebar, county Mayo, with a view to the purchase of this farm; is he aware of the number of many small uneconomic holdings in the vicinity of this farm; and will he see that it is purchased, either by the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners, for the benefit of those people who live on uneconomic holdings.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I have no information as to any negotiations for purchase which may be proceeding in this case. The property has not been offered to the Congested Districts Board, but the Board will, at their next meeting, consider the question whether they should make an offer for purchase.

Suggested Withdrawal of Grant from Roughfort School.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Templepatrick and Mallusk national schools are within one mile from Roughfort school; and whether, in view of this fact, he will consider the advisability, in the interests of economy, of recommending the withdrawal of the grant from Roughfort school.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that the question of the necessity for Roughfort national school has already been under their consideration, but in view of the recent increase in the average attendance, they have decided to take no action for the present. The attendance for the quarter ended 31st March last was 36.

Dismissal of Teacher of Roughfort National School.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state why the teacher of Roughfort national school, county Antrim, is being dismissed by the manager.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Commissioners of National Education have no information on this subject.

Damage to Rathlin Island Fishing Ground by Steam Trawlers.

MR. GLENDINNING (Antrim, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that damage is being done to the Rathlin Island fishing by steam trawlers trawling quite close to the island; and whether he will take any measures to prevent this practice being carried on in future?

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Department of Agriculture have received no complaints on this subject, and are not aware that damage is being done. Should any facts be brought to their notice showing the necessity for investigation, they will deal promptly with the matter.

Increment for Teacher of Scartaglen National School, County Kerry.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what is the cause of delay in intimating to the teachers of Scartaglen national school, county Kerry, Roll No. 8184, the granting of increments of good service salary, seeing that they are entitled to the same by the annual examination reports for the last three years, the same describing the school as good, very good, and excellent.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that the question of granting increments of continued good service salary is at present under their consideration. In the particular cases referred to, the decision of the Commissioners will be announced at an early date.

South African Mineowners and Payment of the War Debt.

Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is aware that the president of the responsible Government Association declared recently, at a meeting held in Johannesburg, that he had reliable information that the mine magnates wished to control the country for five years, during which time they intended to import thousands of free Chinese to extract the last ounce of gold from the mines, and then to retire and leave the Colony burdened with debt and swamped with Chinamen; and whether the Government will take measures to enforce the payment of the guarantee given by the mineowners to meet war expenses.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) I have read in the newspapers that such a statement was made and immediately contradicted. The undertaking given by certain mineowners was not a guarantee to pay, but only a guarantee to underwrite £10,000,000 of a loan to be raised by the Transvaal Government when the market conditions were favourable. Any such war contribution would, of course, need to be voted by the new Legislature under responsible government.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Overtime in the Royal Dockyards.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the decision to avoid working overtime as much as possible in the Royal dockyards will in any way alter the policy of the Admiralty, as outlined in Lord Cawdor's statement of Admiralty policy, of completing four armoured ships in the year, and more if Foreign Powers increased their programmes.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): The question of overtime will not affect the policy adopted as regards new construction.

New German Battleships—Cost of Gun Armaments.

MR. RIDSDALE (Brighton): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Amiralty what is the estimated cost of the gun armament of the new German battleships, as laid down in the German Navy Estimates.

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The total sum appearing in the German Navy Estimates under the heading Gun Armament is £660,470 per ship. This would appear to include, however, not merely guns, but mountings and armour. The Admiralty have no further detailed information.

MR. COWAN (Surrey, Guildford): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Admiralty adhere to the description of the two new German battleships, given in the Return of Fleets, No. 129, issued last May, as designed to have a displacement of 17,710 tons and an armament of eight 11 inch and twelve 7·5 inch guns.

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The Admiralty have no later definite information regarding these battleships.

Trades Union Rate of Wages in Royal Dockyards.

MR. JENKINS (Chatham): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether in view of the intention of the Government to recognise the trade union rate of wages in the dockyards, and in view of the Admiralty having received a petition from the men on the subject, it is the intention of the Admiralty to act up to that intention, and when?

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The Admiralty have received, and are now considering, a large number of petitions from the dockyards. These petitions will be dealt with in the spirit of my statement in the course of the debate on 1st March,† but it is not at present possible to say how soon such changes as may be necessary will take effect.

Chatham Dockyard.

MR. JENKINS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what is the area of the land covered by the Government dockyard at Chatham, and the estimated value thereof, the number of and estimated value of the building slipways, the capacities and estimated value of the floating and dry docks, and the estimated value of all the machinery and buildings.

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The area covered by the dockyard proper may be taken as approximately 500 acres. The building slipways are four in number, and there are three basins and eight docks, a detailed statement of the dimensions of which I propose to send to the hon. Member. No precise valuation of this property is possible, and even a rough estimate would require considerable time and labour to compile.

Rosyth.

MR. YOUNGER (Ayr Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, when he proposes to make a statement as to the policy of the Government in the matter of Rosyth.

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I shall not be in a position to make any statement on the subject during the present session.

MR. YOUNGER: Are we to understand the right hon. Gentleman adheres to the statement of policy he made in March last.‡

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I am unable to add anything to what I said then.

MR. YOUNGER: But you withdraw nothing?

[No Answer was returned.]

H.M.S. "Montagu."

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, when the Board expect to get the "Montagu" off the rocks; what ships are to be employed in bringing the floating dock from Bermuda for purposes of docking her; and whether the Board are still satisfied, in view of the strains to which the ship has been subjected, that the expenditure on salving and repair will be justified.

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The date cannot be given as it must necessarily be affected largely by the state of the weather. There has never been any intention of bringing home the dock named for the purpose indicated. The reply to the last part of the Question is in the affirmative.

Commutation of Army Pensions.

MR. BARKER (Penryn and Falmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, while a retired commissioned officer may commute part of his pension as early as forty years of age, and a pensioned non-commissioned officer or man at fifty, a retired warrant officer is debarred this privilege until he attains the age of fifty-five; and whether, in view of the fact that non-commissioned officers and warrant officers on returning to civil life are often seriously handicapped for want of means to make a start in business for themselves, he will cause the regulation regarding the commutation of pensions to be amended.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clii., 1372–5.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clii., 1326.

THE SECRETARY FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): Some relaxation has recently been allowed in regard to the age at which retired officers are permitted to commute a portion of their retired pay, and I should like to make a somewhat similar concession in the case of retired warrant and non-commissioned officers and soldiers, where commutation was clearly to their advantage. The subject of commutation generally, however, is not altogether free from difficulty, and at present I can only say that I have it under my consideration.

3rd Infantry Brigade, Aldershot—D. Bremner's Deferred Pay.

*MR. CLAVELL SALTER (Hants, Basingstoke): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the case of D. Bremner, late corporal in charge of the Medical Inspection Room, 3rd Infantry Brigade, Aldershot, who was discharged from the Army on February 6th, 1906, after twenty-four and a half years service, without receiving the deferred pay to which he became entitled on his discharge; whether he is aware that Bremner's deferred pay was withheld from him upon the alleged ground that he was only a private and had improperly drawn corporal's pay from November 1st, 1902 until January 31st, 1906; and whether, seeing that Bremner was appointed corporal by the colonel commanding the 42nd Regimental District in July, 1901, and thereafter until the date of his discharge continuously performed corporal's duties and was allowed to wear corporal's uniform, and in view of the fact that his pay as corporal was always passed by the Pay Office, he will state what justification exists for withholding the sum due.

MR. HALDANE: This case was decided locally in the Aldershot Command, and I am having inquiries made about it.

Training of Irish Army Candidates.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that owing to the absence of Volunteer regiments in Ireland in which Army candidates from the universities could get military training, as they do in England and Scotland, provision was made more than a year ago whereby Irish candidates were nominally gazetted to Militia regiments without being required to join them; that further regulations were made whereby applications were made by the colonels of such Militia regiments to the commanding officers of Regular regiments for the admission of such candidates to training with the Regulars, and that this was done without trouble to the candidates or universities, and has worked well for the last eighteen months; will he explain why this arrangement has been upset by the War Office authorities, who now require Irish Army candidates to sign and fill up forms necessary in the case of those who purpose joining the Militia, involving details and certificates, baptismal and otherwise, with medical certificates, and involving expense for no useful purpose, as these forms, or analogous ones, must be afterwards filled and sent in before admission to the Army; and will he do away with these details, and revert to the arrangements which were approved of by the Commander-in-Chief in Ireland, and which have hitherto worked well.

MR. HALDANE: The facts of the case are not accurately stated. Formerly a university candidate had first to become a Militia officer and then to apply through his Militia, Yeomanry, or Volunteer commanding officer to be attached to a Regular unit. In order to save him the trouble of applying through several authorities, and largely on account of the representations of the Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, arrangements were made whereby, if not already holding a commission in the Auxiliary Forces, he could apply through his university authorities direct to the War Office—(*a*) to be given a commission on the Unattached List of the Auxiliary Forces, and (*b*) to be attached to a Regular unit. On receipt of such application all further arrangements are made by the War Office. This arrangement was made by the War Office, not by the Commander-in-Chief in Ireland, who has no authority to make such arrangements. It applies equally to all universities whether in Ireland or elsewhere. The present procedure is thus the simplest that could be devised. To fill in a simple form is a small matter for a gentleman who desires the honour of receiving His Majesty's Commission in the Auxiliary Forces, with a view to being attached to, and commanding men in, a Regular unit, and subsequently obtaining a commission in a Regular unit. A medical certificate of fitness is always required before a commission is given in the Auxiliary Forces. This certificate may save a candidate, who would be rejected by the final Medical Board, from subsequent disappointment, and from the expense of attachment.

Army Nursing Service.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he proposes to make reductions in the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, seeing that the numbers employed in military hospitals are far in excess of the requirements of the sick, and that much public money could be thereby saved.

MR. HALDANE: The establishment of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service was fixed to provide for the efficient nursing of the sick in military hospitals at home and abroad, and to establish in connection with these hospitals nurse training schools for the men of the Royal Army Medical Corps. Increased responsibilities in both respects have been delegated to the nursing service. The distribution of the staffs has been decided upon by the civil matrons of the Nursing Board, and all matters relating to Army nursing form the subjects of recommendation by that Board, and is not, in the opinion of my expert advisers, in excess of the requirements. It must be remembered that the standards of the medical care and treatment which are requisite for the sick have risen during the last few years, and that the improvement is resulting not only in more humane methods, but in a saving of public money which is not less substantial because it is indirect.

Cason Mine Manager.

SIR JOHN KENNAWAY (Devonshire, Honiton): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the fact that Mr. Jamieson, compound manager of the Cason mine, was charged at Boksburg Court on the 25th instant with flogging a Chinaman; that Thomas Radcliffe, who was the chief witness, swore that Jamieson administered twenty-five blows with great cruelty, rendering the victim unable to work; that the coolie said he received only one slight blow, and that his evidence was corroborated by other coolies; whether he has official information showing that the magistrate said that the charge brought by Radcliffe was gross perjury, and the case concocted by him; and, seeing that Mr. Jamieson was discharged and Radcliffe arrested in court for perjury and removed to gaol, he will state by whose authority the prosecution of Mr. Jamieson was authorised.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N. W.); I have already informed the hon. Member for Great Yarmouth in reply to a Question on Thursday last† that a report upon the case has been called for by telegraph and will reach us by mail.

*SIR JOHN KENNAWAY: And will the hon. Gentleman inquire who forwarded Radcliffe's affidavit to the authorities?

*MR. CHURCHILL: Yes.

MR. GIBBS (Bristol, W.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any official information showing that in the case of Mr. Jamieson, charged at the Boksburg Court on June 25th, the magistrate said that the witness Radcliffe had committed perjury, and that he ought to be prosecuted; and whether, if that is so, it is intended to proceed against this witness for perjury.

*MR. CHURCHILL: No official information has yet been received, but a telegram has been sent asking for particulars.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: Will the hon. Gentleman make some inquiry into the career of this Radcliffe in this country? Did he not offer his services to each Partv alike at the last General Election either to support or condemn Chinese Labour?

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): Is the hon. Gentleman aware that Mr. Radcliffe has personally stated to Members of this House that that statement about him is absolutely false?

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† See Col. 1128.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: It is absolutely true.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD: It is not.

*MR. CHURCHILL: It would be most improper for me to pronounce any opinion on the character of the man whose name has been mentioned.

Ceylon Pearl Fisheries.

MR. MENZIES (Lanarkshire, S.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies seeing that the profits of the Ceylon Government Pearl Fisheries were £150,000 for last year, and that Professor Herdmann believed that the amount of profit would be very large in future years, why the Government accepted £20,666 rental per annum for a lease of twenty years without asking or advertising for tenders.

*MR. CHURCHILL: I can only refer the hon. Member to the replies which I have recently given to similar Questions in the House, and in which I have stated what I understand to be the reasons that actuated the late Government in the course which they adopted.

MR. MENZIES: Does the hon. Gentleman consider an adequate consideration is given in rental?

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is now asking as to a matter of opinion.

MR. J. D. WHITE (Dumbartonshire): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies in view of the fact that, after the close of the 1905 season, the Ceylon Government Pearl Fisheries were leased to a private company for twenty years at a rent equivalent to £20,666 a year, how that annual rent compares with the annual revenue derived by the Ceylon Government from these pearl fisheries in the years 1903, 1904, and 1905, respectively; and what was the amount of that revenue for each of those three years.

MR. CHURCHILL: It is impossible to state the exact figures from the information available here, but, as nearly as I can estimate them, the net receipts were, in 1903 Rs. 630,000 (£42,000), in 1904 Rs. 915,000 (£61,000), and in 1905 Rs. 2,300,000 (£153,300). I am bound to add that the results of these three years, in each of which there was a successful, and in the last a record fishery, do not of themselves afford a basis for computing what would be a fair rental, and that the rent payable by the company under their lease is roughly the average net revenue obtained over a period of twenty years including and ending with 1905, during which there were twelve years in which the fishery failed altogether.

MR. J. D. WHITE: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that Professor Herdmann, the expert, has expressed an opinion that as things stand now——

*MR. SPEAKER: Notice should be given of that Question.

Native Labour for the Transvaal Mines.

MR. MACKARNESS (Berkshire, Newbury): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to a statement, recently published in Johannesburg by the Transvaal Mines Labour Company, that an adequate supply of Native labour could be obtained so as to gradually rid the Colony of Chinese labour, that the company had a well-planned organisation, and had secured the services of men thoroughly familiar with recruiting work in South Africa, that it was prepared to supply at once, as a first instalment, 5,000 Kaffirs for the mines, and also to deposit £5,000 as security for the due performance of the contract; and whether, under these circumstances, His Majesty's Government will take all such measures as may be necessary under the terms of the *modus vivendi* between this Country and Portugal to remove the interdict which has been placed by the Portuguese authorities upon the recruiting of Native labour on the East Coast of Africa by any other persons than those employed by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.

MR. CHURCHILL: I have seen a statement to this effect. I would refer my hon. friend to my Answer to a Question by the hon. Member for Chester on June 18th,† as well as to the speech of

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† See 4 *Debates*, clviii., 1363.

Secretary of State made in another place on Friday last, wherein it has been made clear that His Majesty's Government are willing to permit and facilitate the recruiting of Kaffirs by other bodies besides the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association provided that their reputation and responsibility are established. Communications are even now proceeding in that intention both with Lord Selborne and with the Foreign Office.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): Does the hon. Gentleman intend to exclude private recruiting? Is he acquainted with the character of the Transvaal Labour Mines Company?

MR. CHURCHILL: Yes, Sir. I have a good deal of information about that. It is not the intention of the Government to re-institute open recruiting, but we are prepared to secure equal treatment for every responsible body.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): May I ask if, in carrying out this policy, the Government will bear in mind the fact that recruiting in Tropical Central Africa is exceedingly fatal to the coolies who go to the Rand and of very little advantage to the mining industry?

MR. CHURCHILL: I have every reason to believe that it will be discontinued.

The Repatriated Chinese Coolies.

MR. LONSDALE, (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the twelve coolies who have applied for repatriation have been returned to China, and, if not, whether the Government will consider the desirability of commissioning them to explain to their compatriots in the mines the new proposals for inducing coolies to embrace the means of escape from their present condition.

MR. CHURCHILL: As these coolies have already returned to China my honourable friend's solicitude is too late.

Military Operations in Nigeria.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any information as to recent military operations against natives in Nigeria; and whether the unrest is due to the circulation of seditious matter among the Mussulman population.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State has received full reports from Sir Frederic Lugard as to the recent military operations near Sokoto and at Hadeija in Northern Nigeria. There is no reason to suppose that the hostile attitude of certain sections of the Mussulman population was due to the circulation of seditious matter. No other military operations have taken place recently in parts of Nigeria where the population is Mussulman.

South African Import Duties.

MR. STUART SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that under the Provisional South African Customs Union Convention, it is proposed to tax second-hand clothing, largely exported from the East End of London, to the extent of from 150 to 400 per cent. as compared with a present charge of 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, less a preferential rebate of 2½ per cent.; and if he will represent in the proper quarter the desirability of a reduction in this duty.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State is aware that the duty has been increased from 10 per cent. *ad valorem* less a preferential rebate of 2½ per cent. to 2s. for each article of clothing. As the provisional convention has now been ratified by the Colonial legislatures, I do not consider that the requested representation would be likely to serve any useful purpose.

The Court Martial on Natal Natives.

MR. MACKARNESS: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, as soon as the rebellion in Natal is over, His Majesty's Government will remove their objection to the publication of the evidence upon which twelve British subjects were recently convicted of a capital offence and executed.

MR. CHURCHILL: Yes, Sir; it will be both convenient and desirable to publish the evidence in question when the present period of danger and unrest shall have ended.

Shanghai Administration.

Mr. D. DAVIES (Montgomeryshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what steps he proposes to take for the reorganisation of the administration of Shanghai: whether in view of the refusal on the part of the Chinese authorities to come to an agreement with the representatives of England, Germany, and the United States as to the procedure of the Mixed Court, he will inform the House if the assessors are exclusively bound by the Regulations of 1869; and whether practice and precedent settled since that date are to be entirely ignored.

The SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland Berwick): No steps for the reorganisation of the administration of the International Settlement at Shanghai are in contemplation. It would not be correct to say that the Chinese Authorities have refused to come to an agreement as to the procedure of the Mixed Court. Negotiations are proceeding as to the proposed amendments to the Court rules, and although no final result has been attained, we understand that considerable progress has been made. Meanwhile, I am informed that the Mixed Court is being administered as hitherto in accordance with practice and precedent.

The Denshawi Executions.

Mr. REDDY (King's County, Birr): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that whilst one of the Egyptian natives was being hanged at Denshawi, on June 28th, two others were flogged within view of the gallows; that a large multitude, including women, were looking on; and that the flogging caused horrible cries; and will he say whether the sentences were carried out under the supervision of Captain Machell, adviser to the Egyptian Minister of the Interior; and is Captain Machell a British officer.

Sir EDWARD GREY: In consequence of the statement which has appeared in the Press, I have asked for a full Report of how the sentences were carried out, with special reference to the points named in this and other Questions. Meanwhile, I cannot say anything as to who was primarily responsible for carrying out the sentences.

Mr. REDDY: Will that brute Machell be kept in the service?

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.) asked if the Answer applied to all the Questions on this subject.

Sir EDWARD GREY: I have, as a matter of fact, prepared Answers which give some pieces of information, but practically my Answer covers all the Questions.

Mr. REDDY: Are you going to cloak this man? You talk about the Congo horrors.

Mr. MYER (Lambeth, N.): Are the reports in the Press substantially true?

Sir EDWARD GREY: I have asked for a full Report of all the circumstances of the case. I may say I assume there can be only one impression produced by the details as they appeared in the newspapers, and I think it most desirable instead of dealing with the matter piecemeal we should have the full Report. When that Report has been received I shall be prepared to lay it before the House.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) asked if the information would be sent by cable.

Sir EDWARD GREY: Considering the number of points raised, it is thought best to have a Report sent by Mail.

Mr. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) asked if the Report would be received before the Foreign Office Vote would be taken.

Sir EDWARD GREY: I do not think it is possible to have it by Thursday.

Mr. DILLON: Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the desirability of having the Vote postponed or the Report sent by telegraph? It would be unfair to deny the House the only opportunity for considering the Report.

Sir EDWARD GREY: I recognise the importance of the matter, but I think there are other questions of importance not connected with this for discussion on the Vote. My object is to give full information, and when I have laid Papers before the House opportunity will be found for discussion.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): We want the opportunity to compare the Congo administration with our administration in other parts of Africa.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON (Northumberland, Tyneside): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any official information showing that the late Captain Bull, whose death followed on the recent affray at Denshawi, really died of heat apoplexy.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I have no information as to the precise cause of death. This is a point which will no doubt appear in the evidence for which I have already asked.

MR. J. D. WHITE (Dumbartonshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the hanging of certain natives, and the flogging of certain other natives, at Denshawi on June 28th, were of a public character; whether some hundreds of natives, men and women, were present as spectators; and, if so, whether steps will be taken to have the execution of any such sentences in Egypt conducted in accordance with the usage of civilised nations.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The sentences were ordered to be carried out in public on the scene of the outrage. When I have received the full report, the question of whether such executions should take place in public will be considered.

MR. DILLON asked whether the proceedings were arranged with the approval of the British Consul and Agent-General; if so, were they approved of by His Majesty's Government; and whether any official attempt had been made to induce any of the London Press to abstain from publishing any of these details.

SIR EDWARD GREY: These points are covered by the Answer I have read. I have no information, but the points have been noted, and will be specially dealt with in the Report on the whole proceedings for which I have already asked. Papers will be laid before the House when the full Report is received. I am not aware of any attempt, official or unofficial, to influence the Press in this matter in any way.

MR. DILLON: Some of us will endeavour to raise the subject on Thursday.

Chinese Customs.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what steps are being taken to ensure that the assurances given by the Wai-wu-pu, that no change is contemplated in the method of administering the Chinese Customs, will be officially promulgated for the instruction of all who are engaged in the department.

SIR EDWARD GREY: His Majesty's *Charge d'Affaires* at Peking reported on June 16th that the offices of the new Administrator would be ready in three weeks, when instructions would be issued to Sir R. Hart to continue as before. These instructions would be in accord with the assurances received by His Majesty's Government, and being issued officially would be public.

Bahr-el-Ghazal.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs when the evacuation of the Sudanese Bahr-el-Ghazal by Congolese troops, in accordance with the Anglo-Belgian Convention, will take effect.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The five posts in the Bahr-el-Ghazal occupied by Congolese troops should have been evacuated as soon as possible after the signature of the agreement. But in such remote districts, a certain delay in sending instructions and in carrying them out is unavoidable.

LORD TURNOUR (Sussex, Horsham): How long since should the evacuation have taken place? What has been the extent of the delay?

SIR EDWARD GREY: I can hardly tell. It necessarily takes time to reach these remote places.

Unrest in the Euphrates Valley.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has received information of the murder of several British subjects recently in the vilayets of Baghdad and Basr; and what steps are being taken to restore order in that area, and protect the lives and property of British subjects.

SIR E. GREY: His Majesty's Government have received information of the murder of one British subject, Mr. Glanville, at Maghil, and His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople is giving every attention to the matter. A special Commission is being despatched by the Ottoman Government to concert such measures as are required for the maintenance of order.

The Aland Islands.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that the occupation of the Aland Islands, in the Baltic, by Russian troops, while Russian warships remain in the immediate vicinity, has caused alarm in Sweden; and whether it is intended to ask the Russian Government for explanations of their action, in view of the engagements of Russia as to these islands in the Treaty of Paris.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the negative. As regards the second part, I have nothing to add to the reply given on June 28th to the hon. Member for the Blackpool Division of Lancashire.†

The Algeciras Protocol.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether in ratifying the Algeciras protocol the Sultan of Morocco has made any reservations or conditions; and, if so, whether he can communicate the nature of such conditions to the House?

SIR EDWARD GREY: His Majesty's Government have not yet received the formal notification of the Sultan's accession to the Algeciras Act; but according to a Report received from His Majesty's Minister at Tangier, the Sultan has acceded without making any reservation.

Vaccination Exemption Certificates—Captain Gravener, J.P.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if Captain Gravener, who said he would not give certificates of exemption from vaccination, is still a magistrate; if his attention has been called to Dr. Tinker, a magistrate sitting on the Hyde bench, who declared on June 25th, 1906 a conscientious objection to give certificates of exemption from vaccination; and if he will take any steps to enforce the Law.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I am informed that Captain Gravener stated that he would not sit when application for certificates of exemption were under consideration. When the matter was first brought to my notice I sent the Papers to the Lord Chancellor, and there is no further action for me to take in the matter. I have made inquiry into the case at Hyde referred to by my hon. friend, and I find that after some conversation with the applicant Dr. Tinker withdrew from the Bench and the applicant was told to come again when two other justices were present. Dr. Tinker does not refuse to carry out the law. These cases and others to which my attention is constantly being drawn illustrate the chronic friction which is caused by the present state of the law with regard to exemption certificates.

Anarchist Writings.

SIR W. EVANS-GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that one Johann Most was in June, 1881, sentenced by the Lord Chief Justice to sixteen months hard labour, for having published a libel against the Emperor Alexander II., for having extolled the assassination of that monarch as a triumph of revolutionary justice, and for having encouraged divers persons to murder other potentates in Europe out of Her Majesty's dominions: and that, in returning a true Bill against Most, the grand jury recorded their unanimous opinion that the publication in this country of excitements to the assassination of foreign rulers should be vigorously dealt with; and, if so, will he explain why no action has yet been taken against those persons who expressed regret at the failure of the recent attempt against the life of the King of Spain; and does he contemplate taking any, and, if any, what action.

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† See Col. 1132.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am well aware of the facts of the case of Johann Most. The article which formed the basis of the prosecution in that case referred in terms of exultation to the murder of the Emperor of Russia and contained incitements, in the clearest language, to the murder of other rulers. The articles to which my attention was drawn, though containing most objectionable matter, were so written as not to bring the writers within the law. They do not express regret for the failure of the attempt to murder the King of Spain, nor do they contain definite incitement to further murder. I am advised that any attempt to prosecute would serve no purpose but to advertise the mischievous article. My attention, however, has just been called to a further article in another publication which is under my consideration.

Vivisection.

*SIR PHILIP MAGNUS (London University): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been directed to an advertisement of the National Canine Defence League, alleging that a collie dog, afterwards claimed by a doctor, recently took refuge in a shop in Gower Street with its throat cut and suffering terribly; and whether he has directed any inquiries to be made in the matter, and, if so, with what result.

*MR. GLADSTONE: It appears from the statement of the shopkeeper that the incident occurred four years ago, and not recently, as might have been supposed from the statements in the papers, and that the dog was claimed by a porter at University College, who was well known to the shopkeeper, and not by a doctor, as alleged. The condition of the dog's neck could not be seen, because it was bandaged; but some tubing is stated to have been hanging from the bandage. The porter died some time ago. No further information appears to be available.

Caradoc Mine Disaster.

COLONEL HERBERT (Monmouthshire, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the recent disaster at the Caradoc mine, Gilfach Goch, whether, as required by the Mines Act, a plan of the disused workings of that mine was deposited at the Home Office when working was temporarily suspended; what guarantee the Home Office has of the accuracy of such plans; and whether, having regard to the danger of flooding in collieries that have been partially disused, he will direct that special inquiry be made with reference to the working plans of the colliery in question.

*MR. GLADSTONE: A plan was deposited at the Home Office of the workings in the Ty Du seam at this colliery which were abandoned in September, 1904. The accuracy of the plan was certified by a surveyor approved by the inspector for the district, as required by the Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896. Inquiry is being made by the inspector as to the accuracy of the working plans of this colliery.

British Railway Rates for Timber.

MR. D. DAVIES: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the higher rates charged by British railway companies for the carriage of timber, as compared with Continental railways, and to the differentiation in rates which British railways make in favour of foreign timber; and what steps he proposes to take to remove the inequality which now exists.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): No specific complaints as to the railway rates on timber have recently been brought to the notice of the Board of Trade. If any particulars are furnished of preferential rates for foreign timber being granted the Board of Trade will be prepared to investigate the case.

Company Returns.

MR. BARRAN (Leeds, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he is aware that some limited companies have not filed Returns ordered under The Companies Act, 25 and 26

Vic., c. 89, part 2, since 1894, although bringing themselves under a penalty of £5 per day by failing to do so; and whether he will take steps to compel these companies to comply with the provisions of the Act.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: The Board of Trade make every effort to enforce the regular filing with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies of all the returns ordered under the Companies Acts. I do not know of any cases of default such as those referred to by my hon. friend, but if he will give me any instance of which he has knowledge I will make enquiries.

MR. BARRAN: If I prove the general register is defective in some cases, will the right hon. Gentleman see that it is brought up to date as a whole?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I will inquire into any cases brought to my notice.

MR. BARRAN: The right hon. Gentleman does not appreciate my point. I shall prove it is defective in some cases, and I want to know if the right hon. Gentleman will see that all defects are remedied.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I will inquire.

Metropolitan District Railway.

MR. PAUL (Northampton): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the frequent stoppages and delays of the electric trains on the Metropolitan District Railway; and whether the directors can by any means be induced to consult the convenience of the travelling public.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I would refer my hon. friend to the Answer on this subject which I gave on March 20th, to the noble Lord the Member for Maidstone.† Since that time I am glad to say that complaints have materially fallen off. I have no doubt that the railway company are fully alive to the desirability in their own interest as well as that of the public of putting an end as far as possible to the stoppages and delays referred to.

The Salisbury Railway Accident.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) asked the President of the Board of Trade whether he had any fresh information as to the railway accident at Salisbury, and whether full inquiry would at once be instituted into the cause of the disaster.

MR. WARDLE (Stockport) asked the right hon. Gentleman whether in view of the large number of accidents which had recently occurred through engines jumping the rails when running at high speeds, and especially in view of the deplorable accident at Salisbury, he would cause special inquiries to be made regarding (1) the practice of running express trains at such high speeds (2), the state of the permanent ways, (3) the construction of the engines, and other cognate matters, with a view to the prevention of such accidents.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I have not yet received any particulars beyond those which have appeared in the newspapers as to the appalling accident which took place yesterday. The inspecting officer of the Board of Trade has already proceeded to Salisbury, but I have not yet received his preliminary report. A formal inquiry will be held later on as to the causes of the accident, in the course of which the matters referred to by the hon. Member will be carefully investigated; but it would be premature to offer any opinion on them at the present moment. I may be permitted to add that this terrible accident has evoked the deepest sympathies of this House and of the nation with the friends and relatives of the victims of the accident, and with the injured survivors.

Commission on Lighting Coasts and Harbours.

MR. GEORGE GIBBS: I beg to ask the President to the Board of Trade when he will announce the names of the Committe or Commission to be appointed to examine the question of lighting coasts and harbours.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I hope shortly to be a position to announce the names of the Royal Commission proposed to be appointed to inquire into the constitution and administration of the general lighthouse authorities.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cliv., 218.

Merchandise Marks.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been called to the Report of the Select Committe of 1897 on the operation of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887, and to the unanimous recommendation that the definite words — made in———,— required by the 16th section of that Act, operated as a gratuitous advertisement of our foreign rivals in a particular country, and should be replaced either by the word imported or foreign; and, in such case, if the Government will introduce a short measure to give effect to such recommendation, or support the Bill introduced by the hon. Member for Central Sheffield with that object.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I am fully aware of the Report in question, but there is no intention of introducing amending legislation at present. Any Private Bill brought in to give effect to the recommendation of the Committee would receive the sympathetic consideration of His Majesty's Government.

Spotted Fever in Glasgow.

MR. C. E. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether repeated cases of spotted fever have occurred for some months in Glasgow; and, if so, whether he will consider the desirability of requiring that the disease shall be placed on the list of those for compulsory notification, not merely in Glasgow, but as a general order.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Acts do not empower the Local Government Board to issue a general Order making a disease compulsorily notifiable, and I am advised that, under present circumstances, there would be no need for any such general Order as regards the particular disease referred to in the Question. With the approval of the Board, however, action for the purpose of making this disease notifiable may be taken by any sanitary authority in England and Wales (with which alone I am concerned), so far as relates to the district of the authority, and in August last the Board issued a circular to the several authorities, stating that they would be prepared to consider an application for their approval to an extension of the Act to the disease, should the sanitary authority desire, in view of any special circumstances, to make the necessary application. Some applications of the kind have since been made and approved.

Medical Officers of Health and Vaccination.

MR. LUPTON: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will treat the publication by a qualified medical man of an opinion adverse to vaccination as a bar to his appointment as medical officer of health, as was done in the Penge district council case in April, 1901; and, if the Answer be in the affirmative, will he state how he proposes to safeguard the free expression of scientific opinion by medical officers of health.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I could not give a general Answer on the point referred to in the first part of the Question. If it comes before me in any particular case, I shall be prepared to consider it.

Kentish Landowners as Land Grabbers.

MR. COX (Preston): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the way in which landowners in various parts of the country, and especially in the county of Kent, are in the habit of annexing roadside strips; and whether he will take steps to call the attention of rural district councils to the matter, and to their duty under the law.

MR JOHN BURNS: I do not find that representations have been made to me on this subject, though I am aware that sometimes attempts to make encroachments of the kind referred to are made. I have not at present any reason to suppose that rural district councils are ignorant of their powers and duties in the matter, and in the absence of further information to show that such is the case, it does not seem to me necessary to call their attention to them.

Sale of Tinned Meats.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state what steps are being taken to prevent American tinned meats and foods, now in the hands of importers or wholesale dealers, from being relabelled and sold as British produce.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I would refer my hon. friend to Section 6 of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1875, which prohibits the sale to the prejudice of the purchaser of any article of food which is not of the nature, substance, and quality of the article demanded by him, and also to the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887, which make it an offence to apply a false trade description to any goods. A false trade description includes a false description as to the place or country in which the goods were produced, and the term "goods" includes anything which is the subject of trade.

Royal Commission on Motor Cars.

MR. EVERETT (Suffolk, Woodbridge): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board when the Royal Commission on the Motor Car Acts is likely to report.

MR. JOHN BURNS: As I stated on Friday in reply to a Question on this subject, I have every reason to believe that the Report will shortly be issued.

Hyndburn Park School, Accrington.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that plans for the Hyndburn Park School, Accrington, were approved by the Board of Education on condition that the school should be organised in three departments under separate head teachers; that the local education authority desire to depart from these conditions, and to arrange for one large department for 740 children; that on 17th May last the board refused to consent to this modification on the ground that such a department would be large and unwieldy, that effective supervision would be impossible, and that the head teacher could have no possible knowledge of the children under his charge; and whether the Board of Education now propose to depart from the principles expressed in that letter, and, if so, on what grounds.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): The facts named in the Question are, so far as I am aware, accurately stated. The matter is having my careful attention, and a letter will be sent shortly to the local authority explaining the views of the board in regard to it and to the principles it involves. The board do not propose to depart from their general principles. As regards the particular instance under consideration, the number of children in attendance will not, at all events for some considerable time, reach the number referred to in the Question, which is certainly larger than can properly be supervised by one head teacher in the proper sense of the term.

School Buildings Maintenance.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether the trustees or managers or the local authority will be responsible for the wear and tear and structural upkeep of the fabric of the State-aided and non-rate-aided schools contemplated in the amended form of Clause 4 of the Education Bill.

MR. BIRRELL: The cost will not fall upon the local education authority.

Teachers' Religious Tests.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether it will be competent in the new class of state-aided and non-rate-aided schools contemplated under the amended form of Clause 4 of the Education Bill for the managers to apply a religious test to the teachers in such schools upon appointment.

MR. BIRRELL: The appointment of the teachers in the schools referred to in Question, which I hope will be but few in number, will not be in the hands of the local education authorities, as the schools will in no way be maintained by those authorities. Therefore the conditions in respect of the appointment of teachers which are laid down in the Education Bill as applicable to schools maintained by local authorities will not apply.

DR. MACNAMARA asked whether the right hon. Gentleman contemplated the imposition of a religious test in such cases.

MR. BIRRELL: I am afraid I cannot exercise any control over that matter.

Teachers' Appointments and Dismissals.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether the local education authority will continue to have the powers of veto over the appointment and dismissal of teachers, conferred by the Education Act of 1902, in the case of the new class of State-aided and non-rated schools contemplated in the amended form of Clause 4 of the Education Bill.

MR. BIRRELL: The Answer is in the negative.

The Conscience Clause.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether the parents of children attending the State-aided and non-rate-aided schools contemplated in the amended form of Clause 4 of the Education Bill will, as matters now stand, be able to claim for their children the protection of the Conscience Clause.

MR. BIRRELL: The Conscience Clause will certainly apply to the schools referred to in the Question.

Religious Instruction.

MR. T. M. HEALY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education does any syllabus of Bible teaching state whether it is the seventh day or the first day of the week that was commanded to be kept holy; if not, can he say how the ordinance as to Sunday observance is explained to children under the Cowper-Temple system; and will he make accessible to Members of the House any syllabus of Bible teaching in which the abandonment of the observance of the commandment as to the Sabbath day and the keeping of Sunday as the day of rest and reverence is explained or justified.

MR. BIRRELL: The Board of Education are not responsible for the religious instruction given in council or voluntary schools. I have no information in regard to the matter referred to in the hon. Member's Question beyond that, if any, which may be contained in the Parliamentary Return recently issued.

Education Bill—Clause 8.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if, in consequence of his new Clause 3 to the Education Bill, he proposes to omit Clauses 8 and any clause consequential to it.

MR. BIRRELL: The Government's action in regard to Clause 8 depends entirely upon the view taken by the Opposition of the new clause as to bilateral compulsion referred to by the hon. Member. If it is accepted by them, no doubt most of the provisions of Clause 8, and the clause as it now stands, will become inapplicable to the new position thus created, and would therefore have to be materially modified, if not omitted. I can thus give no answer as to the course to be taken when Clause 8 comes before the Committee for consideration, until the Leader of the Opposition has intimated the line that will be adopted in respect to the new clause. It must clearly be understood that the new clause has been put upon the Paper only to carry out the offer made by me on June 12th† to the Opposition, and must not be taken as representing the Government's intentions in regard to the matter in the event of that offer not being accepted.

MR. DILLON: What opportunity is going to be given to us to indicate our attitude towards the new clause before we reach Clause 8?

MR. BIRRELL: If no intimation has been given to us, we must proceed with Clause 8 as it now stands in the Bill.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): Are we to understand that it is at the discretion of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition whether or not the new clause is to supersede Clause 8?

MR. BIRRELL: The Government have no desire whatever to thrust the new clause upon the House. It was given in answer to a proposal put from the other side, and it was an offer on my part in answer to theirs. If therefore, it is not accepted, we shall proceed with Clause 8 as it stands in the Bill.

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† See (4) *Debates* clviii., 839.

MR. T. M. HEALY: With a view to enabling us to discuss these later clauses, would the right hon. Gentleman make a few of us peers?

MR. BIRRELL: Nothing would give me greater gratification than to see the hon. and learned Member in another place.

Education Bill—Clause 4.

COLONEL WALKER (Lancashire, Widnes): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether it will not be incumbent upon the applicants for extended facilities to show at the public inquiry that there is alternative school accommodation for all children whose parents do not desire the facilities within the meaning of paragraph (b) of Subsection (1) of Clause 4 of the Education Bill; and, if so, how the applicants are to get the names of those parents in time for making the necessary inquiries or at all; and whether the production and publication of those names is consistent with the secrecy of the ballot.

MR. BIRRELL: The ultimate effect of Clause 4 will be as follows: The ballot will determine whether or not paragraph (a) of the clause is complied with, *i. e.*, whether the requisite 80 per cent. of children desire the extended facilities, and will consequently show at the same time the number of school-places (not the actual individual children) which may possibly be required in other schools under paragraph (b) of the clause. It will then rest with the public inquiry to determine whether this full number of school-places in other schools will actually be required, or whether any deduction is to be made from that number in respect of children whose parents were unable to vote at the ballot and who do not require that other accommodation. It is obvious, therefore, that there will be no occasion whatever to infringe the secrecy of the ballot, or to ascertain in what way any particular parents may have voted.

British Mails by German Liners.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he will state how often during the last fiscal year His Majesty's mails were despatched by steamers of German lines calling at Southampton to the United States; what was the total sum paid to such companies during that period for the carriage of the mails; and will he say whether British steamers were available for this purpose.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): During the last financial year there were six occasions on which German packets calling at Southampton on their voyage to the United States were used for the conveyance of British mails not consisting exclusively of specially addressed correspondence. No direct payment is made to the steamship company in such cases. The use of foreign packets is a matter for adjustment on the basis of periodical statistics with the Government which pays the subsidy. On the occasions in question no British steamers of sufficient speed were available for the conveyance of the mails.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN: Is no money paid?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The liners are subsidised by the German Government and it is a matter of arrangement with the German Post Office.

Charing Cross Improvement.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the First Commissioner of Works whether it has been decided that the removal of the premises now occupied in Charing Cross and Spring Gardens by the Phœnix Fire Office, the Union Assurance Company, the Liverpool, London and Globe Insurance Company, the Architects' Department of the London County Council, Messrs. Hobgood and Dowson, is necessary to complete the opening of the Mall to Charing Cross; and, if so, when the buildings were purchased, and by whom, and if not purchased when they will be purchased, and by whom.

*THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, N.E., Rossendale): I have not heard of any decision such as the hon. Member suggests; nor do I know whether the owners of these houses wish to sell them, or to whom.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: Will the right hon. Gentleman state whether he proposes to take any legislative power?

*MR. HARCOURT: No, Sir.

Skye Medical Officer.

MR. JOHN DEWAR (Inverness): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he is aware that at Uig, in Skye, on the estate of the Congested Districts Board, there is no proper residence for the medical officer, and that, in consequence, there is difficulty in retaining the services of a doctor in the district; and will he use his influence with the Congested Districts Board to induce them to put one of the houses belonging to them at Uig at the disposal of the medical officer.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): The responsibility of the Congested Districts Board in this matter is simply that of any other landlord in the district, and at present I regret to say that there is no prospect of their being able to provide such a house. But I am aware that this is a real difficulty. To enable this parish council to meet it, legislation will be necessary and I will consider whether or not steps should be taken in this direction.

Marine Biological Station, Millport.

MR. GULLAND (Dumfries Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that there is a prospect of the teachers' classes at the Marine Biological Station at Millport being cancelled because of the action of the Glasgow and South Western and Caledonian Railways in withdrawing their steamers; and whether he will take instant action to prevent the loss of this useful educational work.

MR. SINCLAIR: The Department has received no communication on the subject from the managers of the Marine Biological Station, and they have no reason to suppose that there is any prospect of the teachers' classes at present conducted there being discontinued.

Protection of Scottish Fisheries.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that the quantity of line-caught fish landed in Scotland during the year 1905 was 50 per cent. less than ten years ago; and, seeing that this decline is attributable to the fishing beds being injured through illegal trawling, will he state when he proposes to provide the Fishery Board with another cruiser for sea police service.

MR. SINCLAIR: I am aware that there has been a great decrease in the quantity of line-caught fish in Scotland during recent years, but the decline may be attributable to other causes besides that referred to by the hon. Member. The funds at the disposal of the Fishery Board are not yet sufficient for the purchase of another cruiser.

Moray Firth Fishing Banks.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that the last Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland shows that, during the year 1905, the fishing banks of the Moray Firth again proved unproductive; and seeing that this is attributed to the action of foreign trawlers, will he state what progress is being made with the Moray Firth trawling appeal.

MR. SINCLAIR: I have no information as to the date upon which the decision of the Court of Justiciary will be given.

Scottish Congested Districts Settlers.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, in view of the fact that the last Report of the Congested Districts Board shows that the Board have assisted in settling 1,150 persons on the land, will he state how many of these persons are feuars or in process of becoming proprietors, and how many crofters under the Act.

MR. SINCLAIR: The 1,150 settlers brought out in the statement at page 27 of the Appendix of Congested Districts

Board eighth Report may be divided thus:—

1.	Feuars (Battery Park, Stornoway)	29
2.	Proprietors subject to annuity	730
3.	Crofters under the Acts	261
4.	Leaseholders (Borve and Symbister)	130
		1,150

Crofters' Building Loans.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state in how many instances the Congested Districts Board have advanced money to crofters to enable them to rebuild their houses; and what security does the Board take in such cases for the recovery of the money advanced.

MR. SINCLAIR: The Board have made loans in ninety-four instances to enable crofters to build houses on new crofts formed by proprietors by the subdivision of farms with aid from the Board. The security is the bond prescribed by Section 6 of the Board's Act

Irish Lights Board.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the fact that there are no members of Irish Harbour Boards on the Irish Lights Board; and what steps he proposes taking to remedy this omission.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (MR. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): Pending the proposed inquiry by a Royal Commission into the constitution of the General Lighthouse Authorities, I am not prepared to take any steps with respect to the Irish Lights Board, whose constitution can only be altered by Act of Parliament.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): When will the Royal Commission hold its first sitting?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I hope it will be appointed in the course of a few days.

Tralee Post Office.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General when it is intended to start building the post office in Tralee.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): The plans have now been settled, and it is hoped that the Board of Public Works will soon be able to make arrangements for commencing the building.

Trawling.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Prime Minister, in view of the fact that the last Report of the Fishery Board for Scotland shows that the line fishing industry has declined 50 per cent. within the last ten years, and that this decline is due to the depredations of illegal trawlers, will he state whether he can see his way to grant facilities for the further consideration of the Trawlers' Certificates Suspension Bill.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): No, Sir, I am afraid I cannot see my way to granting facilities for this Bill.

MR. WEIR: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that this Bill is unopposed with the exception of one Member of the Opposition who is interested in trawlers—and trawlers only—and does he know it would prove of great service to line fishermen all around the coasts? Will he, therefore, not reconsider his decision?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I should be glad to see proper time given for the discussion of this Bill, but although my hon. friend discerns only one opponent I am aware that granting of facilities would immediately produce more than one.

Jewish Massacres in Russia.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that both Houses of the United States Congress have passed a Resolution expressing the horror of the people at the massacre of Hebrews in Russia; and whether His Majesty's Government propose to give an opportunity to this House of recording its opinion on this subject.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The recent events in Russia, to which the hon. Member calls attention, have, as he is aware, aroused the strongest feeling in this House and throughout the country. I am not at all sure that the adoption of the unusual course suggested by the hon. Member of giving formal expression to those sentiments would serve any useful purpose, or that it might not even add to the difficulties in Russia itself.

Punishments in Public.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Prime Minister if, in view of the demoralising effect of public executions and floggings, and their long abandonment in the United Kingdom, he will order their discontinuance in all countries directly or indirectly under the flag of the British Empire.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I will consult my colleagues as to the extent, which I believe to be very limited, to which public executions and floggings take place, and consider whether any steps can be taken.

Wireless Telegraphy Bill.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the Prime Minister when he proposes to take into consideration the Lords' Amendments to the Wireless Telegraphy Bill.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I cannot fix a day at present.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: Will notice be given before the Bill is taken?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Notice must be given.

Public Rights of Way.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the unsatisfactory state of the law affecting the law of evidence as regards the proof of public rights of way, and of the uncertainty with which juries treat such evidence, which makes the expense of proof of a right of way very onerous on local authorities, and almost impossible for the public to establish rights of way to mountain tops, places of historic interest, and the sea-shore, notwithstanding that the public have had uninterrupted use of such rights of way for very many years, His Majesty's Government are prepared to introduce a Bill to amend the law, and so afford greater protection to the public interest.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I should be very glad to see the law affecting rights of way put on a clear and satisfactory footing, but, of course, at this stage of the session I can say nothing about introducing legislation on the subject. If I were entitled to put a Question to my hon. friend I should be tempted to ask him why the Bill which was backed by him and which aimed at securing the objects which he has at heart has, within the last few days, been dropped.

MR. PAULTON (Durham, Bishop Auckland): With reference to that measure, for which I was responsible, I should like to say the Bill was withdrawn in consequence of opposition which it was impossible to overcome on this side of the House.

Mr. Justice Grantham.

MR. ARKWRIGHT (Hereford): I beg to ask the Prime Minister if he will consent to lay upon the Table of the House a copy of the memorial, in compliance with which he has given a day for the Motion of the hon. Member for South Donegal, in regard to the conduct of Mr. Justice Grantham.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The terms of the memorial were hardly intended for public purposes; but even if no such memorial had been presented it would not have been easy to refuse an opportunity for discussing the Motion in question.

Education Bill—Personnel of Commission.

MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury): I beg to ask the Prime Minister if he can now state the personnel of the Commission to be appointed under the Education Bill.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No, Sir, I cannot give the hon. Member the names to-day.

Government Contracts—Fair Wage Clause.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that the fair wage clause in Government contracts now fails to meet the changed circumstances, he will appoint a Select Committee to go into the matter, with the view of recommending an alteration of the clause, making trade union wages and conditions of employment the standard of fairness in all Government contracts.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: It is the earnest desire of the Government to give full practical effect to the purpose underlying the Fair Wage Clause. The question what further clauses, if any, are necessary to fulfil this object in the diverse circumstances of the numerous Government contracts is receiving the careful consideration of the Departments concerned. The present moment does not therefore seem to me opportune for the appointment of the suggested Select Committee.

Colonial Independence.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether his attention has been called to a debate in the Canadian Senate, on the 27th instant, in the course of which Senator Ellis declared that there is proceeding in Canada a movement which is rapidly making for absolute national independence; and on what course of policy do the Government rely to counteract such a movement towards disintegration, not only in Canada, but also in other parts of His Majesty's dominions.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I am rather surprised at this Question looking to the quarter from which it comes. The feeling in Canada, as well as in other Colonies, is well known, and it tends not towards disintegration, but to closer union. And I advise the hon. Member not to be frightened by the speeches of Senator Ellis or anyone else.

COAST EROSION COMMISSION.

MR. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck): Can the Prime Minister now state the names of the Commission on Sea Erosion?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The Royal Commission on Coast Erosion will be constituted as follows:—The Hon. Ivor C. Guest, M.P. (Chairman), Sir William H. Browne-ffolkes, Sir Leonard Lyell, Mr. William Matthews, C.M.G., Mr. W. P. Beale, K.C., M.P., Commander G. C. Frederick, R.N., Mr. H. Rider Haggard, Professor T. J. Jehu (St. Andrew's University), Mr. A. L. Lever, M.P., Mr. R. B. Nicholson (town clerk of Lowestoft), Mr. Patrick O'Brien, M.P., Mr. T. Summerbell, M.P., and Mr. A. Stanley Wilson, M.P.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES.)

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection: That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Law and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill: Mr. Henderson; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Barnes.

Report to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) (No. 2 BILL).

Order for Committee upon Thursday read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

NEW BILLS.

ECCLESIASTICAL ASSESSMENTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To amend the Law regarding Ecclesiastical Assessments in Scotland," presented by Mr. M'Crae; supported by Mr. Munro Ferguson, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Eugene Wason, Mr. Sutherland, Mr. M'Callum, Mr. Rainy, and Mr. Gulland; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 291.]

NURSES, REGISTRATION AND QUALIFCATION BILL.

"To regulate the Qualifications and Registration of Trained Nurses," presented by Mr. Claude Hay; supported by Sir Arthur Bignold and Mr. Findlay; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 292].

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to votes at Parliamentary Elections; and for other purposes," presented by Mr. John Robertson; supported by Mr. Burt, Mr. Alden, Dr. Rutherford, Mr. Murray Macdonald, and Mr. Dalziel; to be read a second time upon Friday, July 20th, and to be printed. [Bill 293.]

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 6:—

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth) submitted that it was not in order to discuss this clause, inasmuch as the Committee had already come to a decision in a contrary sense, when on Clause 1 they decided that religious instruction should not be given outside the school hours. This clause put religious instruction outside compulsory attendance, and therefore outside the school hours.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that even if the hon. Member were correct about Clause 1 he had given the Answer to his own Question, which was that Clause 6 dealt with attendance, whereas the Amendments on Clause 1 dealt with religious instruction. He did not think the Question submitted by the hon. Member arose.

*MR. WALTERS (Sheffield, Brightside) said that the object of the Amendment standing in his name and of consequential Amendments was that the children should attend the schoolhouse during the whole time that it was used as a public elementary school. If parents objected to their children receiving religious instruction, provision should be made for secular instruction to be given in school hours in lieu of religious instruction. He said quite frankly that he approached this matter not so much from a religious as from an educational standpoint. He regarded the question more from the side of school efficiency and school discipline; and he was very much afraid that, in all the ingenious balancing of denominations, they would forget that the principal object of the schoolhouse was to educate the children. Let them take, for instance, the serious disturbance to discipline and efficiency that would be caused by the working of the facilities clauses, and, in addition, by the different times at which the children would be permitted to come to school in the morning. Both classes and curriculum would be disarranged. He was not surprised that the Minister for Education should say that under this clause a larger number of boys would be an object not of obloquy, but of envy to others, because the teachers would have no knowledge whether the children were coming to school or not, and the parents would have no knowledge that the children whom they were sending to school ever reached it. The result would be that a large number of children would absent themselves at the commencement of the day; the teacher would have a difficult task in the organisation of the classes to start with, and then he would have to rearrange the classes again when the second or third batch of children came in. He therefore opposed Clause 6 on educational grounds. He now came to the very serious question of child labour. He thought that Clause 6 opened the door very widely for a considerable extension of child labour. There were two forces at work in that direction: first, the greed of employers and, secondly, the selfishness of parents. Cheap child labour was always an attraction to a certain type of employer; and if children might be absent from school till a quarter to ten o'clock there would be a large increase in the number of boys and girls who would be employed to run errands; for indoor and outdoor work, and as domestic drudges. The children would not be fit for school instruction after a hard morning's work. Then the school attendance officers would lose control over the children. At least 10 per cent. of the children at present had to be compelled to attend school by the constant superintendence of the school attendance officers, and if they added inducements to children to stay away from school until 9.45 each morning, this would further increase the irregularity of attendance. He had the strongest objections to child labour. He thought that the world's work should be done by adult men—not by children or old men; and therefore the burden on children should not be increased but diminished. It might be asked why should not this matter be settled by the local education authority by by-law? He objected to that, because it would raise over again the religious difficulty which the House were trying to settle. They had, by a large majority, decided that they would not have secular instruction only in the elementary schools of the country; that there was to be undenominational religious teaching, and that certain special facilities were to be given for denominational religious instruction. As a Nonconformist he thought the Government had been too liberal in the latter respect; but he thought in common honour it would not become the House to take away those facilities by a kind of side issue; and they ought not to throw this bone of contention among the local education authorities. But neither did he want that the special facilities should be increased by a side issue. The object of hon. Gentlemen opposite was to ask for local option so as to provide a method of withdrawing the children from school during school hours and taking them to church. That was going beyond bounds and increasing the facilities for religious instruction beyond what the Committee had already granted. He thought it would be very much better, instead of leaving this to the local education authority, that it should be decided there and then definitely and distinctly what the policy was to be. He was very jealous of any interference with the effective working of the school system in the country and particularly of council schools in which there was no religious difficulty whatever. He believed that the Conscience Clause in Section 7 of the Act of 1870 was all that was required. In point of fact it was seldom put into operation. The people were entirely satisfied with the kind of religious instruction given in the council schools, and there was no demand for special religious teaching in some other building than the school. He could not understand why some hon. Members on the Ministerial side of the House should want that system altered. He had no objection to the parents having the right upon a definite written request to have their children withdrawn from the school premises during the time religious instruction was being given, or, in the alternative, to their children being given secular or moral instruction in separate rooms during the religious instruction hour. Surely children who lived in squalid surroundings, whose lives were hard and prosaic, were the children who would benefit most by the touch of imagination given by the reading of the Bible story and parable. Surely the children who had to suffer most from, and were the victims of, the worst forms of industrial greed and selfishness most needed the lessons of love and humanity from the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount and the gracious influences of religion. It was for these reasons that he moved the Amendment standing in his name.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 9, after the word 'the,' to insert the words 'obligation of a.'"—(*Mr. Walters.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) asked the hon. Member to read out in full the constructive effect of his Amendments.

Mr. WALTERS said that if his Amendments as a whole were accepted the clause would run—"The obligation of a parent to cause his child to attend school shall, notwithstanding any by-law, include an obligation to cause the child to attend at the schoolhouse during any time allotted to any religious observance, or to instruction in religious subjects, during the hours for which the schoolhouse is used for the purposes of a public elementary school. Provided that the local education authority shall provide during the time so allotted for any children who are withdrawn by their parents from any such observance or instruction some form of secular instruction."

Mr. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid.) inquired whether it was in order for an hon. Member to propose an entirely new clause upon an Amendment to insert "obligation of a," which meant nothing.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that no doubt the Amendment on the Paper was, by itself, utterly incomprehensible. But it was followed by others which made it comprehensible and was not out of order. He had already stated his reasons for allowing the Amendment and its fellows to be moved. It raised all the important issues raised by the clause itself, and raised them in a convenient form, although no doubt the effect of the Amendments taken as a whole was to remodel the clause to a greater extent than was desirable if any new issue had been raised by it.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.) said it would be in the recollection of the Committee that a few days ago he promised on behalf of the Government that the Committee should have an opportunity of voting on Clause 6 without any hint or suggestion being given to them by the employment of Government tellers. In this matter, therefore, their will was free, and he hoped hon. Members enjoyed that position. The issue was not altogether free from difficulty, and even of some measure of technicality; and he hoped hon. Members would allow him to state what was exactly the present state of the law upon the subject. Supposing Clause 6 were to be struck out of the Bill altogether and no fresh enactment of any kind made, how would the matter stand? Now, the existing by-laws made it perfectly plain that the parent of every child of not less than five or more than fourteen years of age should cause such child to attend school—the Committee would observe it did not say the schoolhouse—unless there was some reasonable excuse for non-attendance. The next by-law provided that the time during which the child should attend school should be the whole time that the school was open for instruction, subject, of course, to the conscience clause providing for the withdrawal of any child from religious instruction. It was a very ineffective conscience clause which was provided for under the Act of 1870. That Act was silent as to whether the right of withdrawal meant the right of withdrawal of the child from the school premises or whether it simply meant the right of withdrawal from the class in which religious instruction was given, although he believed that during the course of the debate in 1870 it was made perfectly plain that what was intended was the right to withdraw the child from the religious instruction and not from the schoolhouse itself. Ever since 1870 the general practice had been to require the nonconforming child to attend the schoolhouse, to stand apart from his fellows, and to be regaled with some branch of secular information instead of religious instruction. Then came the Act of 1902, which transferred the voluntary school to the local authority, and, at all events, imposed on the local authority for the first time the obligation of settling the time table and paying for the instruction. Then the question was raised in certain parts of the country as to whether the child could be taken at nine o'clock from the school to the church for religious instruction. The Board of Education decided that it was a question for every local authority to decide for itself, whether the by-law was complied with by allowing the child to be taken elsewhere for the purpose of receiving religious instruction. Then came the by-law called by the honoured name of the late Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Education. As a matter of fact, out of 326 local authorities ninety-four had adopted the Anson by-law, and 232 had not. Consequently the present state of the law might be stated as follows: Where the by-law had not been adopted—that was in the areas of 232 local authorities—every child was required to attend the schoolhouse during the religious instruction time, except in the very few cases where the local authority had indicated that it would regard attendance at church as equivalent to attendance at the schoolhouse. Where the new by-law prevailed—that was in ninety-four cases—the child need not attend the schoolhouse, if the parent had written in that sense, during the time of religious instruction. No doubt it was presumed that the child was absent in order to obtain religious instruction elsewhere, but there was no compulsion or obligation of any kind so to occupy the time when he was liberated from school. Consequently, taking that by-law into account, it rested entirely at present with every local authority in the country to decide whether there was compulsory attendance during religious instruction time or not. The local authority might adopt the by-law; if it did, the parent could notify in writing his desire to withdraw his child, and the child was withdrawn altogether from school during the period of religious instruction. That was within the option of every local authority in the country. As he had said, 232 local authorities went on with the law as before—namely, the child was supposed and required to attend the schoolhouse; although a parent has never been prosecuted for non-attendance, nevertheless, the child was required to attend at the schoolhouse for the purpose of receiving religious instruction or, in the alternative, secular instruction. That was the present situation. Were no law passed and Clause 6 deleted altogether, matters would remain in that position. He adhered in his own mind to Clause 6. Although he had been much affected by some of the considerations put forward on grounds of fear and alarm as to what would happen supposing parents got to know what it was assumed they did not know, that no harm would befall them if their children did not attend until the religious instruction was over, he supported Clause 6 for three reasons. In the first place he was perfectly satisfied that it was the only effective way of making the conscience clause a reality. It was a matter of great regret that all these years the conscience clause had remained ineffective; because if only it had been recognised as a real thing in our town and country school life—if it had become a thing under which a claim was easily made, readily granted, generously allowed, he did not believe they would have been in the difficulties they had been in all these years. The number of times in which the conscience clause had been enforced, considering the number of cases involved, was extremely small. He believed he knew why that was. The conscience clause was invented, conceived, and framed for the purpose of protecting the conscience of the parent; but it was so framed as to cast the whole burden of securing its enforcement upon the tender shoulders and the thin skin of the child, who was required to go to the school armed, it might be, with a document from his father, and to demand an exceptional, special kind of treatment, to be exposed undoubtedly to a good deal of remark and sarcasm, and to have given to it in lieu of religious instruction, some form, and very likely a disagreeable form, of secular knowledge. Therefore, he said that a conscience clause, if they wanted one, should be made a really effective one. They wanted to secure that it should be put into operation whenever it ought to be. They ought not to impose a burden, as the present conscience clause did, upon a child. Children could not, they really would not, and they ought not to be expected to submit to it. Anybody who had ever been in the position of a minority child, and who had not forgotten his own child-nature, would, he thought, recognise the truth of what he had said. Another reason for the clause as it stood was that it got rid of the difficulty of the school hours, by no means an improper thing to get rid of. The Committee had shown by a large majority that it wished religious instruction to be maintained in all the schools; and it had also, he was glad to say, secured some measure at all events of facilities for denominational teaching in the schools. He thought, therefore, it was all the more important and desirable that they should eliminate from the area of passion and shibboleth and Party feeling all that they could. The subject was difficult enough as it now stood, and anything that reduced the difficulties was to be commended. He thought, therefore, the fact that this clause did get rid of the difficulties of school hours was a distinct advantage. He would also point out, and he thought he was bound to point out, although this part of his argument might not approve itself to his hon. friend behind him, that this was not a bad denominational clause, since it did allow —and nobody, it seemed to him, whether he desired it or not, could by any possibility object to that—an opportunity for giving denominational teaching outside school hours, at the expense of those who gave it, in a very convenient form. It might be that those who did not like the denominational instruction might view with disfavour the idea that the practice should grow up in this country of, for example, the Church children being taken by the vicar or rector of the parish at nine in the morning to the church or the vestry for three-quarters of an hour's definite religious instruction; but no Nonconformist who had grasped the principle of his Nonconformity could have any objection to any such proposal. It was not done during school hours or out of the ratepayers' or taxpayers' funds. It was a matter of private zeal and of private devotion; and anybody who could secure that zeal and that devotion was, surely, at perfect liberty so to do. He thought, therefore, although not himself sharing the denominational zeal of many Gentlemen opposite, or sharing their view of the advantages gained by the children being taught together in school hours, that he was bound in justice and in truth to indicate that this clause as it stood did give to the children reasonable opportunities during the old time, at the old school hours of the day at which children had been accustomed to receive religious instruction, to receive this definite religious instruction. For these reasons he thought this clause was the most honest, the boldest, the clearest way of dealing with this difficult question. It made the conscience clause a reality, and enabled those persons who really did not wish their children to receive particular religious instruction to secure their withdrawal without putting upon them a too heavy and, indeed, intolerable obligation. All educationists would agree that it would be a grievous thing if the school-going habit, built up at an enormous expense of public money during the last thirty or forty years, were to be destroyed; but having made such inquiry as he could in London and other places, he could only say that there was a tendency to exaggerate the fears upon that matter referred to by his hon. friend. School-going had now become an ingrained habit in this country, and it was an entire mistake to assume that either the great majority of the parents or the great majority of the children reluctantly sent, or went, to school. The instances they had in London of the actual employment of children of school-going age in lucrative pursuits for gain at the expense of their school hours were happily very few indeed; and the prohibition of the law as to child labour, which was intended to be made severer than it was, and the growth of a much sounder opinion on this subject made it possible to hope that there would be in the future even fewer of such instances than in the past. He did not really think —although the subject was one that deserved careful consideration—that there was any occasion for the nervous dread and anxiety on this subject which animated very good people. For the reasons he had given, and having regard also to the general structure of the Bill, by which, Cowper-Temple instruction being made as universal as possible, and by the facilities now given under Clauses 3 and 4, they had done their best to give to the education of this country a distinctively religious flavour, he thought they were bound in the interests of religious liberty itself to adhere to the clause, and he recommended it accordingly to the Committee.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan) hoped the Committee would permit him to say a few words on a subject in which he had taken a very great interest. Did the right hon. Gentleman intend the time table now existing, and which provided for the opening of the school at nine o'clock, to be continued, or was the hour of opening to be that which terminated at the end of the time usually allotted to religious instruction? It seemed to him that very much depended upon that. He believed that at the present time the parents had never been punished for not sending their children to school during the half hour allotted to religious instruction, but on the other hand the child had been submitted to penalties for non-attendance. Before this clause could be fully discussed the Government ought to explain to the Committee whether they intended that the time table should be in its present form. He entirely agreed with what had been said by the hon. mover of the Amendment, who had stated the position very clearly, and he did not think the answer given by the Minister for Education could be regarded either as complete or satisfactory. It was the pleasure of this House two or three years ago to pass a measure which was not so much enforced as he would wish it to be, for the regulation of the labour of children. They had abundant evidence, when they were dealing with that subject, of the unfortunate greed of too many parents shown in their desire to make use—improper use, as some Members thought—of the labour of their children, and to earn a few pence at the sacrifice of benefit to the children. If that were the case two or three years ago it was certainly the case now, and he did not think the Committee would be acting wisely if they ever passed legislation upon the principle that there had been a great change in the sense of parental duty in this respect. The real difficulty was that they were apt to fix their minds upon the great mass of parents and to pass over instances which, though not so numerous, were yet appreciable in their number. He could not dispose of this part of the case so lightly as did the right hon. Gentleman, who would find upon inquiry that there were practical grounds for the fears he ventured to express. Another strong and valid reason was the difficulty which parents would experience in exercising authority over their children during this half or three-quarters of an hour, and it had not been explained who else was to have supervision over them. He believed that in many cases, if they were not employed by their parents in gathering pence, they would certainly do business on their own account. Even if they did not adopt that course they would probably waste their time and get into evil habits through lack of that superintendence which all children required. They might fall into the practice of systematic deception towards their parents. There was one more point—he was speaking now after conversation with a most experienced teacher—and it was that there would be a great difficulty in securing prompt attendance at the secular hour. During the time devoted to religious teaching there was now some want of punctuality, but by the time secular instruction began the register was filled up by the presence of children. Another objection to the proposal was that it would encourage indolence on the part of a parent who would be enabled to commence the day's task half or three-quarters of an hour later.

*Mr. PERKS (Lincolnshire, Louth) said he wished in a few words to explain why he was strongly in favour of the view submitted to the Committee by the President of the Board of Education. He thought the clause was the only real and effective protection for Nonconformist children in the small village schools. It must not be forgotten that under the Bill which was intended to establish a uniform system there were to be four types of school instead of two as in the past. So far as council schools were concerned, the proposal of his hon. friend the Member for the Brightside Division of Sheffield would be a distinctly retrograde step. He passed at once to village schools, with which he was chiefly concerned. He spoke as a Nonconformist, and, he believed, represented the overwhelming body of Nonconformists on this particular point; he hoped they might also receive the support of the Irish Catholics.

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.): Certainly not.

*Mr. PERKS said he would give one or two reasons why the Amendment might perhaps be disadvantageous from the Catholic as well as from the Nonconformist point of view. The village schools in Lincolnshire at all events very generally contained a very large proportion of Nonconformists. He had had the figures taken out for several typical village schools. These schools all belonged to the National Society or church organisations, which in the course of the transfer would doubtless make it a condition that the facilities provided under Clause 3 should be enforced. The religious instruction would therefore take the form, he presumed, of Cowper-Temple instruction plus the special facilities, which might be given, as they had thought, on two days of the week, but which, according to an interpretation recently put on the clause, might, apparently, be given on five days a week. He was not quite sure what interpretation the Government put on that clause, as there was some little difference of opinion on the subject between the President of the Board of Education and the Leader of the Opposition. Be that as it might, the only protection which the Nonconformists would secure, if the Amendments now under discussion were passed, would be the conscience clause. In Lincolnshire the conscience clause had been an absolute farce. In one of the villages to which he would refer in a moment, where there were sixty-one Church of England children and 105 Nonconformists in the school, a labourer

Sir Francis Powell.

a few years ago who claimed the benefit of the conscience clause had a notice to quit served upon him almost immediately consequent on that claim. In another village school close by he himself saw on a winter morning two little children standing at the porch. He asked them what they were doing, and they said their father was a labourer in the village and that he claimed the benefit of the conscience clause. At Marshchapel, there were eleven Church of England children to 106 children of Nonconformist parents. In the next school there were sixty-one Church of England children, and 105 Nonconformists. In the third school there were seventeen children of Church parents and 120 Nonconformist children. In the fourth school there were twenty-six Church of England children and thirty-five Nonconformists; in the fifth school there were twenty Church of England children and eighty Nonconformists; and in the sixth ten Church of England children and twenty Nonconformists. In every one of these schools there would be distinctly sectarian instruction in accordance with the tenets of the Established Church, and if the Amendment were passed the only protection of the Nonconformist children who were in an overwhelming majority would be the conscience clause. The same proportion existed in Cornwall and in Durham as in Lincolnshire. The schools which claimed and received the special advantages of Clause 4, and certainly the State-aided schools, would be largely Anglican and Catholic. They would be affected to even a greater degree by the operation of the clause than the rural schools which by Clause 3 would be thrown back again into the hopeless and, as he thought, most unsatisfactory and unjust position in which they had hitherto been. He did not suggest that a child should be brought up without religious instruction, but he did think it was very important in many of these little villages, and particularly in small rural towns, that the parent should have an opportunity of seeing the nature of the religious instruction given in the schools before he decided whether he would avail himself of such religious instruction. It would be idle to say that the teacher must give secular instruction to the Nonconformist children who were withdrawn. The proportion in these schools between the two sections of the community was so overwhelmingly in favour of Nonconformity that the teacher could not be told off, during the period the Nonconformists were claiming the benefit of the conscience clause, to give religious instruction to a very small percentage. The clause was really the only effective protection the children of the rural districts would have against religious persecution, against the bringing to bear on them of all the hundred and one different ways of using the schools for the benefit of the Church. Therefore while he much regretted that the Government had not adhered to the clause as they brought it in, but had run away from its provisions, he was very glad to find the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill hâd had the courage to state to the Committee so clearly his views so far as he was personally concerned.

MR. DILLON remarked that the hon. Member for the Louth Division had asked him to take the same attitude as he had taken on this clause. Perhaps the hon. Member would be astonished if he said he had not heard from him a single argument in support of the clause. The instance he had mentioned of religious persecution in Lincolnshire would not apply to the parent who withdrew his child altogether. He was astonished at the description given of the condition of the schools in Lincolnshire. When the Minister for Education drew a picture of the feelings of what he was pleased to call the minority children he sympathised with him, but the schools of Lincolnshire did not contain minority children. Were they to be told that the Nonconformists of Lincolnshire were so cowardly and had so little self-respect that seventeen Church children out of 140 children could dominate the school?

*MR. PERKS said he never suggested anything of the sort. His argument was that the majority should not be tyrannised over.

MR. DILLON contended that that argument would apply with equal force if Clause 6 was passed, because there would be a more ample opportunity for persecution. The only argument which had been adduced in favour of this clause by the Minister for Education was that in certain schools where there was a small minority the children might be placed at a disadvantage by being asked to stand aside. Was that argument strong enough to justify the introduction of a clause which amounted to a reversal of the decision of the Committee on Clause 1? This was a secular education clause. Had the Minister for Education forgotten the great change that was going to be made in the system of education by this Bill? What was the burning necessity for the conscience clause? What was going to be the established religion of the country? Was it against the established religion that they required a conscience clause? [MINISTERIAL cries of "Yes."] Then why did hon. Members opposite not support the Amendment moved by the hon. Member for Burnley? Those who refused to support the hon. Member on that occasion expressed the opinion that the children should be educated in simple Bible teaching or fundamental Christianity. For the future in the vast majority of the schools the Nonconformists of England would have the religious education which they had selected, and it was against that that they required an extended form of the conscience clause. He had been appealed to as a champion of the rights of parents and he had been asked why he did not support this clause so as to give the parent a right to withdraw his child from religious instruction. Would hon. Members on the Ministerial side be willing to extend that principle and give those who desired denominational instruction a right to withdraw their children from secular instruction? That was quite logical. ["No, no."] He thought it was. This clause was a solemn announcement to the whole of the English people that religion must take a back seat in all the schools of England. [MINISTERIAL cries of "No."] It was an announcement that for the future compulsory education was to apply only to subjects of secular instruction, while religion was to be outlawed. The Anson by-law had been alluded to, but that was a very different thing from Clause 6. It was a rather confused document, but it laid down that where an individual parent served a written demand or notification that he wished to withdraw his child from religious instruction he should have the right to do so. Although that by-law was issued two years ago, only one-third or one-fourth of the local bodies were putting it into force. But that was totally different from what was now proposed in Clause 6, because it threw upon the parent the somewhat invidious task of sending in a written application, but that was different from declaring to the whole of England that there was no necessity for a parent to send his child to attend religious instruction. What would be the inevitable result? He agreed that this clause was entirely vicious in its operation, but it would affect least of all the Catholic schools, because the priest could be trusted to bring in the Catholic children in spite of this clause. Therefore its main effect would be on the non-Catholic schools, although it would affect Catholic schools in the long run. The withdrawal of children from religious instruction was a kind of thing that would spread, because the whole school would begin to envy those children who enjoyed the privilege of being withdrawn, and year by year their numbers would gradually increase. He believed that was the reason why the clause aroused enthusiasm amongst those who supported a secular system. It was simply introducing secularism through the back door, and so far as the Protestant schools, were concerned it was distinctly a secular clause. He would like to have a poll of the teachers of England on the question. It would have a bad effect on the schools, and above all it would have a bad effect in the case of selfish parents. The Minister for Education had said he did not believe that the majority of parents unwillingly sent their children to school or that the children went unwillingly to school. There were, he believed, a large minority that did send their children very unwillingly, and unless child nature had changed since he was a boy, many children went to school unwillingly and would be very glad of an extra hour at home in the morning, or for play on the way to school. What he was most concerned about was the selfish parent, who would not take the trouble to get his child ready in time for school or would employ him in work about the house. If a parent chose he could keep his child away for an hour after school began. The difficulty of school hours could always have been got rid of by keeping religion outside school hours, and that was what the clause proposed to do. It was a curious thing that at the time when this proposition was made to inform all the parents of England that they might, and to invite them to keep away their children from school while religion was being taught, there was introduced into the Code a new direction of a very curious and interesting type, called moral instruction, which would form an important part of every elementary school curriculum. It was his opinion that all moral instruction should be based on Christianity. The new direction included the following: Cleanliness of mind and body, love of fair play, gentleness to the weak, temperance, humanity, and self-denial. All these excellent teachings rested on Christianity. Nevertheless the Christian religion was to be driven outside school hours and some form of ethics was to be employed instead. What Catholics believed was that some religious belief should permeate the whole school teaching. The Amendment appeared to him to be one of a series of Amendments to make the clause do exactly the opposite of that which it now proposed to do. If the Amendment were carried it meant that the clause would be precisely the opposite of that which the Minister for Education intended. He heartily supported the Amendment. He could only characterise the clause as an attempt to carry secularism, not frankly and openly, but by a gradual and insidious process.

MR. PAUL (Northampton) said the hon. Member for the Louth Division was the acknowledged leader of Nonconformity in this House, and he had referred with a contempt which he fully shared to the ambiguities and inconsistencies of Clause 3. He could not help reminding the hon. Member that he (Mr. Paul) got no assistance from him on that point when the clause was passed, but he trusted that he would be more fortunate when he moved the rejection of the clause on Report. The question before the Committee, however, was not one to be judged between Nonconformists and Anglicans, or between Roman Catholics and Protestants, or even between Conservatives and Liberals, but between those who desired religion as a sort of extra subject and those who thought religion should be an integral and fundamental part of all education. He could not help thinking that it was from the religious training of the young in this country that there came those rare, high-minded, disinterested characters such as that whose loss they were all deploring at that moment—their dear friend, the friend of all of them, Sir Wilfrid Lawson. He was very glad the Government had seen their way to allow the Committee to vote on this question as they pleased. He did not know whether the reason for that unexpected laxity was due to the fact that the Government had for once been unsuccessful in their search for a mandate. All this talk about mandates made him tired and sick. Mandate, mandate, everywhere, there was no room to think. Were they automata? Were they all mandate, and no mind? As, however, every Member with a mandate claimed to interpret it for himself, perhaps the independence of the House was in that way recovered. The question was whether religion, subject to the conscience clause, was or was not to be in the future an integral part of the teaching in all elementary schools, and he earnestly trusted that the Committee would decide that it was. He was very much afraid that if they did not insist upon religion being part of the ordinary curriculum they might be driven to something like that sinister future darkly sketched by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, in which a number of wrangling and differing theologians were to be let loose upon the children to teach them to hate each other for the love of God. He prayed that He in His good providence might avert that awful calamity and enable the children to grow up in the future as they had grown up in the past with the two things that could never fail them—the example of their Saviour's teaching and the consciousness of their Father's care.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said he did not propose to follow the hon. Member for Northampton in the discussion of the scheme put forward by his right hon. friend the Member for West

Birmingham, for that did not appear to arise directly on this Amendment. It appeared to him that the clause as it stood, besides being open to the objection urged against it by the hon. Member for East Mayo and others, gave the children the opportunity of doing three things. It permitted them to go to school and get what he would call for shortness the State religion; it enabled them to be kept away, and, as the Minister for Education pointed out, to receive at their homes or elsewhere the religion which their parents prefered; or, lastly, it enabled the parents either to employ the children or to allow them to go and play on the streets. Quite apart from the other aspects of the question it appeared to him to be an undesirable thing that children should be encouraged either to undergo labour before going to school, or to play in the streets. He understood that was one of the main objections of the hon. Member who moved the Amendment; he proposed by way of alteration to prevent children from doing work or playing, and he required them to go to school either to get secular instruction or the State religion. That did not appear to him to be a fair arrangement. It appeared to be, he would not say creating, but establishing that form of religion in almost all the schools of the country, and also compelling the children to receive that religion or no other. It might be right—he thought it was right—to prevent the children from playing in the streets or doing work, but he did not think it was right to prevent them from receiving at home or elsewhere the religious instruction which their parents desired. It seemed to him to be a gross piece of intolerance, if he might say so, to interfere with the rights of the father to teach his children what he pleased. Therefore the Amendment which he had on the Paper, † and which he proposed to move——

THE CHAIRMAN: I think the noble Lord's Amendment should come after the word "shall," or after the word "objection" in the second line of the clause. It does not seem to arise at this point at all.

LORD R. CECIL said that in view of the Chairman's ruling he would not deal with the specific Amendment which he had intended to move, but he presumed he would be in order in discussing the general effect of the clause, and of the possible modification which would make it more tolerable. The matter for the consideration of the Committee was whether it was really desirable to give the special position which the Amendment now before them would to the State religion, because the effect of it would be to say to the children that if they wished they could receive this State religion, or they could receive secular instruction, but if they desired or if their parents desired any other kind of religious instruction it must be taught to them in play time or at some other time. That made it additionally difficult for the children to receive the religious instruction which their parents preferred. He could not think that was fair. It was said that there was no hardship in compelling children to receive this undenominational religion. [AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear.] He was glad to hear that cheer, because, taking the advice of the Minister for Education, he had looked at the return of syllabuses, and he confessed that he had arrived at some conclusions which were not altogether in accordance with those of the right hon. Gentleman. In the first place, there was no guarantee practically in the vast majority of the syllabuses that the religious instruction would be effective at all. In most cases there was no inspection. He did not deny that many of the teachers would give good religious instruction under the syllabuses, but it must be remembered that it would not be grant-earning instruction, and that it would not be tested in any way by examination. That seemed to him to be a very unsatisfactory way of giving religious instruction in schools. The charge made by the hon. and learned Member for Louth was perfectly accurate, namely, that the forms of religious instruction sanctioned were exceedingly varied. That was very unsatisfactory. He commended to the attention of hon. Members who believed in simple Bible teaching the fact that the religious instruction was highly dogmatic. It was not the teaching of the Church of England, or of the Roman Catholic Church, but it was, nevertheless, highly dogmatic. To tell any sensible person—if he might class himself in that category—that it was simple undogmatic teaching was really an insult to his intelligence. He instanced the Cornwall syllabus, which provided for the teaching of the Apostles' Creed and practically the whole of the New Testament, and also for the giving of explanations by the teacher of passages of Scripture. It was not possible that such teaching should be anything but highly dogmatic. He noticed curiously enough that in teaching the Apostles' Creed it was required that the teacher, in dealing with two of the final clauses of that Creed, should put a particular meaning upon them. In other words, in teaching the most controversial clauses of the whole Creed the teacher was to select a particular interpretation which would not be assented to by a large number of Christian denominations. How could hon. Gentlemen opposite tell him that that was not a denominational religion? Of course it was—or it would be if anyone were to adopt it as his creed, and the only reason why it was put in the syllabus was that it had not been definitely adopted by any denomination. It was said that this clause would be a hardship to numbers of Nonconformists in Lincolnshire who would be compelled to send their children to school on two days of the week when denominational religious instruction was given; but how much greater would be the hardship on Church children who would be compelled to attend five days in the week when so-called undenominational religious instruction was given? He confessed that if the clause were amended as proposed by the hon. Member for the Brightside Division, he would have the greatest difficulty in supporting it; but if it were amended in the way he had suggested in the earlier part of his speech his objection to it would be lessened. The true solution of the difficulty would be the withdrawal of the Nonconformist children for religious instruction elsewhere. That would prevent the employment of children in other pursuits and would not encourage them to desert religious instruction altogether. The real reason why he objected to the clause as it stood was that it gave a secularist flavour to the whole Bill. If in addition to saying that the formula of any particular Church was not to be taught, they said that they did not think much of dogmatic religion and did not wish their children to be taught it, then they gave a downward impetus to all religious teaching. Although personally, as the Committee knew, he disapproved altogether of undenominational religious teaching, which he thought was wrong, he would rather have undenominational teaching such as was provided for by the Cornwall syllabus, given by Christian men, than no religious teaching at all. He did not deny that such teaching was of some value; but he would rather have a secularist system than a rotten undenominational system, which pretended to give the children religious instruction but did not. In the undenominational system which set out to teach the children sweetness and light, he had no faith whatever. That was giving the children a stone when they asked for bread.

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† The Amendment standing in the name of Lord R. Cecil was to insert in the proposed Amendment, after the word "obligation," the words "except as hereinafter provided;" and at end to add "and that a parent shall not be subject to any penalty under this section for not causing his child to attend the schoolhouse during any time so allotted if he shows to the satisfaction of the court that he has caused his child during that time to attend some form of religious observance or instruction elsewhere."

Lord R. Cecil.

MR. MYER (Lambeth, N.) said he would sooner have the children taught religion of some kind than none at all. He thought that in school hours the children should have moral instruction, to which their parents could not object. He felt certain that if the children were allowed to go to school at different times there would be no regularity of attendance, for the ordinary workman had no great desire on the matter of religious teaching for his children; it would be found that the schools would become emptier and emptier, and the children would be allowed to run about the streets or would be employed at home. He believed that the teachers themselves would prefer that there should be some regular hour for attendance at school, and that the children whose parents did not desire that they should be given special denominational instruction, should be given moral teaching, such as kindness to their fellow men and to animals. There should be equality and freedom to all and no such thing as compelling children to be taught certain forms of religion in which the parents did not believe.

*Mr. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) said that the Amendment of the hon. Member for the Brightside division of Sheffield should be supported, but with one proviso: that the parents who did not approve of the particular religious instruction given in the school should be able to withdraw their children in order that they might receive instruction elsewhere. What did this clause frankly say? It said that in every school, whether a board school or any other, the religious instruction was to be given out of school hours. That was a startling change, and he asked on what grounds it was proposed? It had been alleged that the present conscience clause had not given sufficient protection to the children of minorities and that the Nonconformists had, consequently, been put under disabilities. He did not think that had been so in the past; but supposing it had, surely under the new conditions all possibility of any injustice would be removed. It should be remembered that every school was to be under the control of the local education authority, who would be perfectly able to ensure that no child should be put in an invidious position by being withdrawn from religious instruction. The right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Education said on the First Reading of the Bill that no conscience clause was worth anything unless it carried with it the right to withdraw children from the schoolhouse during the time religious instruction was being given. He entirely disagreed with that, and the right hon. Gentleman had advanced no arguments in support of his assertion; therefore he could not see why they should change the conscience clause. Then the right hon. Gentleman went on to say that under this clause a child instead of being an object of obloquy would be an object of envy. Was that a thing to rejoice at? The right hon. Gentleman also said in the course of his speech that there was safety in the Hampshire syllabus, and he agreed that that was so. Everything went on very well in Hampshire, and no doubt if other county councils and local education authorities would follow the example set in Hampshire things would go on very well everywhere else. But what was the use of the Hampshire or any other syllabus at all until they had got the children into the school to learn the syllabus? The clause was not asked for by the Church of England, nor by the Roman Catholics, and he was quite sure that the majority of the Free Churches were in opposition to it. This was not a question of High Church or Low Church or of Free Church or State Church. To his mind the question which the clause raised was whether there should be religion in the schools or not. It had been said that if this clause were passed the parents who really desired their children to receive religious instruction would ensure its being given even if there was no religious instruction given in the school at all, and would give religious instruction to their children in their own homes or see that it was given. Of course that was so, and such parents in matters of religious education were above the law. They were not legislating for them, but for the great mass of parents who were indifferent. They were not legislating for the parent who was an atheist but for the parent who was indifferent. He asked the Committee to consider the state of a school after nine o'clock and during the time in which religious teaching was being given. The regular teachers would in many cases be absent and the different denominational teachers would come in and endeavour to instruct the children in their religious Catechism. These religious teachers would naturally not have the same influence over the children as the regular teachers, and meanwhile the scholars would be distracted by the shouts of the other children in the playground who were not receiving religious instruction. The clause, in his opinion, must be amended or ended. What did they ask? They only asked that religious teaching should be put on an equality with cooking or arithmetic—on an equality with secular education, and that it should have a recognised place in our system of education. It was quite obvious that, if this Bill were passed, while Jack would be helping his mother to wash up, Gill would be minding the baby in the parlour during the time that religious instruction was being given in the school. The *fons et origo* of the clause seemed to have been the experience which the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Education went through in his childhood; and from his own experience of his own childhood, he quite agreed as to the difficult position which a child would be in if told to object to being present whilst religious teaching was being given. Surely, however, that difficulty could be got over by the parent writing and objecting to his child being given any particular religious instruction. The right hon. Gentleman himself agreed that to exclude the opening prayer and hymn would be to run counter to the instincts of the nation, and he agreed with him. But why were these religious exercises to be put into such a secondary place? If arithmetic were not made a compulsory subject, how many children when they left school would be able to do a simple sum? In the same way, if religious instruction was not made compulsory in the future we should have few churches and chapels needed. If the Government were weathercocks in regard to this matter the country were not in the same position. It was true that the Government had voted against secular education but they had brought in this clause and left it an open question. If the clause were passed, it would, he was sure, inflict a deep and lasting injury upon the people of this country.

MR. MASTERMAN (West Ham, N.) said a series of speeches had been directed against the clause as it originally stood. The last speaker had put the case most tersely and clearly in protesting against religion being put into a position in the schools different from arithmetic, geography, or any other form of secular instruction. But the claim of those who supported the clause was that religion at the present time occupied a position different from these forms of secular instruction, and that the conscience clause had for thirty-six years up to the present been frankly inoperative. They believed that it would be for the advantage of religion as well as of those who felt conscientious disabilities if some kind of freedom was substituted for coercion in the schools of the country. He was interested in the speech of the noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone and was not without hope that finally he might be found voting with them in favour of Clause 6, because he seemed to prefer the clause as it stood. To say that it was an affirmation of secular education was not true. He wished it was. They were not in the least trying to get secular education by any backdoor as had been suggested. The question beteen the liberty of the parent to choose religion or no religion for his child was perfectly different from the question whether the State should provide any kind of religious instruction at all. He was surprised at the speech of the hon. Member for East Mayo, because no compulsion was ever required towards Roman Catholic parents. Why did he interpose and try to place compulsion on other classes of people? This protection was wanted in rural districts, where the conscience clause had practically failed. It was also true of the non-provided schools in the great majority of the villages in England; otherwise, if there was no religious difficulty, he could not imagine what all this bother that they had been spending the summer over was about. If many of the children in the villages, whose parents protested, still attended the schools and did not take advantage of the religious test then there was the less reason to apply fresh religious tests. One hon. Member had stated that although he objected to religious teaching being given to his children he declined to allow them to be put under the obligation of being put into a place separate and apart from the other children of the school during the time of religious instruction. To all children such a thing as that gave a sense of discomfort, and to a sensitive child it was torture. Therefore it was time that an advance should be made in the direction of religious freedom, that the children of those parents who desired it should be enabled to receive, so far as it was possible under the Bill, instruction in the various kinds of religion that they desired, and that those who did not desire it should be able to withdraw their children from the school during the period in which religious instruction was given. A very strong case had been made out on the words "child labour."

Child labour had been mentioned, and the hon. Member for the Brightside Division of Sheffield had to a large extent grounded his appeal for the acceptance of this Amendment upon that particular question. Nobody deplored child labour more than he (Mr. Masterman) did, unless it were the hon. Member for North Camberwell. But this was not the way to deal with child labour. If the Committee had the courage and tenacity of its convictions anything in the nature of child labour before the hours of school attendance could easily be prohibited. They seemed, however, to be afraid of prohibition and tried to squeeze out child labour by providing theological alternatives. Child labour would never be squeezed out in that way; the only result would be to make children work earlier; to make them have less sleep, less playtime, and less time for breakfast, and it was no use to attempt to deal with the question in that way. He could not see, as had been suggested, that the new system would in any way result in the disorganisation of the schools. Parents would be asked whether their children should come for religious instruction or not. [Cries of "No."] He thought that that was the way in which the local authorities would administer the Bill, and the children who wished to come would arrive at nine o'clock in the morning and arrangements would be made to have them taught at that hour. He did not gather that children would be allowed to come to school some at nine and some at five or ten minutes past in the same way as Members came into the House to listen to this debate. There would be no trace of compulsion. It would be brought about by means of peaceful persuasion at the hands either of the teacher or of the parent, and he conceived that every form of peaceful persuasion would be brought to bear upon the children to induce them to come at that hour. Then at 9.45 the secular business of the school would commence. The roll would be called. There would be no disorganisation and there was nothing in that system that the teachers need or would object to. It was a practical question of the enlargement of the scope of religious liberty which was not beyond the capacity of this House to decide in regard to the educational system which the local authorities of this country would have to administer. He knew that he approached this subject from a different point of view from that of many who sat upon the Liberal side of the House. He approached the subject from the point of view of one who objected to any kind of State religion. He thought it monstrous and illiberal that a State religion should be manufactured by the schools, and more monstrous and more illiberal to say that every taxpayer or ratepayer should contribute towards the expense of that State religion; and most monstrous and most illiberal that every child of every parent should be obliged to attend the instruction in that religion. That was really what they were doing under a conscience clause which was ineffective. That gave him a right to appeal not only to the Free Churches, who would not be free if they consented to it, but also to Members on the opposite side of the House to vote against the elaboration of any particular form of religion to be taught in the State schools of this country. [An HON. MEMBER: It is Christianity.] Christianity if they liked, but there were a good many people who had conscientious objections to the teaching of Christianity; and he did not see how their consciences should be regarded as less sensitive than the consciences of others. That was at the bottom of the protest against Clause 6. It was an unequal judgment of the conscience of the poor in comparison with the conscience of other classes.

*SIR **WILLIAM ANSON** (Oxford University) said that the President of the Board of Education had stated with the utmost clearness the law as it now stood, but he could not entirely agree with his interpretation of the by-law which he had described as the Anson by-law. What the right hon. Gentleman had stated was not the intention of the by-law; it was not the meaning of it, and it could not bear the interpretation placed upon it. There was one objection to the bare rejection of the clause—that it would then be left in the discretion of the local authority, subject to the approval of the Board of Education, to order that the children should only be bound to attend school during the hours of secular instruction. Knowing what he did of the inclinations of some local authorities, and hearing what had been said by the Minister for Education he feared this might result in many cases in religious teaching being placed out of school hours. The Amendment of the hon. Member for the Brightside Division of Sheffield practically put into a statutory form the commonly existing by-law and the common practice. The Amendment, as being in the line of the present practice, was preferable to the simple rejection of the clause and infinitely preferable to the acceptance of the clause as it stood. The alternative he preferred was that if the children were withdrawn it should only be on the understanding that they might receive religious instruction elsewhere. This was the substance of an Amendment put down by himself and by some hon. friends. The Minister for Education had told them frankly that his object was to put religious instruction out of school hours. They would thus throw aside the religious instruction which had gone on in the schools in one form or another since 1870. They had been told that the conscience clause had hitherto been ineffective and that this was to be a conscience clause of a higher form—a glorified conscience clause particularly favourable to the Nonconformist case. He had been surprised at the right hon. Gentleman's criticism of the ineffectiveness of the clause, having always previously heard it discussed from the point of view of its extreme imporance. Nonconformist children ought not now to be likely to suffer any hardship, for every school would be a council school, and the sort of religious teaching favoured by Nonconformists would be universally given, while the facilities under Clauses 3 and 4 could surely be so dealt with as not to harass the sensitive consciences of the Nonconformist children, who on all the days of the week would be receiving their own religious instruction. Much had been said in previous debates of the value of teaching fundamental Christianity. It now appeared that the Minister for Education's laudation of Cowper-Temple teaching meant not that anyone was to be required to receive it, but only that it was good enough to be paid for by everybody, whether they liked it or not. The Amendment which the hon. Member for Burnley moved to a previous clause was a straightforward Amendment proposing to keep religious teaching definitely out of school hours. Now they had what had been fairly and appropriately described as a back door settlement of this question. The Government had shut the front door boldly in the face of the straightforward Amendment. Now they opened the back door and stretched out both their hands to secular instruction, to encourage in their way the view that neither parent was bound to send nor child to attend religious instruction, nor any teacher bound to give it. In these circumstances, where no one need teach religion and no one need learn it, why could they not honestly say they wished to sever religion from education and set up a secular system? The Government had not the courage of their opinion, but he must have the courage of his. He maintained the immense advantage of commencing with prayer and religious teaching the education daily given in the public elementary schools. He believed the value of this system to be immense in rural areas, and incalculable in our large towns, where to many it was the only form of religious teaching to which the child ever listened. The Minister for Education incurred an immense responsibility when he struck this blow at the heart of the religious life of the country.

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) said he really thought the hon. Baronet might have left the conscience of the Government alone when he himself was prepared to vote in a sense contrary to that of the celebrated by-law bearing his name. The hon. Baronet himself was the author of the system which he condemned in Clause 6, and it was rather hard on his part to challenge the conscience of the Government on that matter. This was a subject upon which he (Mr. Channing) felt more deeply than upon any other subject which had come before them in regard to this Bill. He lamented that the discussions on this Bill had been so confined to the competing claims of rival sectarian bodies and that so little reference had been made to the interests of the children. Was it or was it not the interest of little children to be in the school at nine o'clock so that they should learn something in the earlier hours of the day when their faculties were fresh? Why should parents be encouraged to withdraw them in the early hours because of wretched religious squabbles? If there was any justification for the Bill it was because it was a generous, loyal effort to introduce peace into the schools, to create an atmosphere freed from sectarian passion where the education of the children could really be expanded. He was an opponent of Clause 6 because it was not the right way to seek peace to encourage the withdrawal of just those classes of children who most needed the higher influences. It was because it was a better way to secure peace that in furtherance of that object he most heartily supported the Amendment. He perfectly appreciated his right hon. friend's motives and supported his protest against the inefficiency of the conscience clause—he had more than once taken his share in vindicating the rights of parents under the conscience clause; but if passing this clause meant that the consciences of one or two parents would be satisfied; for one child who might be saved from hearing religious teaching from which its parents disapproved, might not hundreds of children be turned into child slaves? Why should they seek to destroy the discipline of the schools; and why should thousands of children lose the opportunity of getting in the freshness of the morning the teaching they ought to have, whether it were secular or religious? They had finally banished the one man power and had established public control over the schools, and therefore the bogey of religious oppression did not really any longer exist. He did not think that cases of religious persecution were likely to occur in the future. Having regard to the serious social results and the serious educational and moral wrecking among the slum children of our great towns that would result from the worst class of parents withdrawing their children during the time religious instruction was being given, he hoped the Committee would not adopt the clause. Many years ago he took an active part as one of its founders in the work of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and he sat for some years upon the Law Committee which dealt with cases of cruelty to children Like others in that House, he had sat on the Committee which passed the Employment of Children Bill and studied the terrible evidence of the labour of school children out of school hours on which it was based. The interests of hundreds and thousands of children were affected, and they could not be set aside as they would be by this Clause. He had received a letter from a lady who was one of the leading social reformers in Liverpool, and who had been for many years on the school authorities, giving her opinion as to the result this clause would have upon the slum population. She wrote—

> "In Liverpool the careless and vicious parent far outnumbers the parent with a conscientious objection to some form of denominational teaching. Unless the children are obliged to be in school, at the same time, some will evade school, or move from school to school. In the lower parts of the town it would be useless to open the council schools at all till 9.45, the only schools that would have any religious or moral teaching would be the Catholic, who would probably get their children at 9 a.m. We could not. . . . I much hope that we may continue our present arrangement of finally shutting all the school doors in Liverpool at 9 a.m."

Often parents were negligent of the highest interests of their children, whom they regarded more as drudges to earn for them a few extra pence to enable them to eke out their own sordid and often immoral lives. It was the duty of the Committee to protect the child life of the country, and he asked them to pause before they accepted a Clause like this. He appealed also to the Labour Members to look upon this from the point of view of labour, for surely they did not wish to see child life crushed down by the demand for early labour. Surely they would feel their obligation to resist in some way the competition of child labour with adult labour in the labour market. On these grounds he hoped the Committee would accept the Amendment.

MR. MIDDLEMORE (Birmingham, N.) saw no necessity for the clause to meet a religious difficulty. It was an invitation to children to barter their religious teaching for half an hour's play. Slum children had no chance of religious teaching in their homes and surroundings. He did not see any reason for this clause at all. He had not seen any religious difficulty worth speaking of in any denominational school. He knew there was no such difficulty in the case of his own village. He was himself an employer of dissenters, and he had gone so far as to offer to facilitate their views, and they had told him that they had no views to facilitate. This clause seemed to him to have for its object the gradual abolition of religious teaching in the schools of the poor. The rich man could retain his schools just because he was rich, but the poor man had to sacrifice his religious teaching simply because he was poor and for no other reason. The clause would make poverty a new religious disability. ["Why?"] If they wished to deprive the children of their religious education let them toe the line and do it frankly and openly themselves, but they should not in this indirect way invite the children to be the agents of their own undoing. There ought to be no mistake whatever about this question. A slum child had no chance at all of getting any religious education in its own home and surroundings. The President of the Local Government Board on one occasion spoke of 200,000 children living with their parents in single rooms. Those children could not get religious instruction in the pandemonium in which they lived; and they were not sent to the Sunday schools. Religious instruction in the day school was their only chance. He asked hon. Members to think of the state of things in common lodging-houses. [Laughter.] It was his weekly task to visit such houses, and he knew quite as much about them as the hon Member who jeered. No form of home religion was possible in the overcrowded bedrooms and common rooms of lodging-houses. The children must have worship at school, or they would have no worship at all. Did the Committee wish this arrangement made in a country which was called Christian? It was nothing short of folly—it was hardly honest—to tell them that these children would get instruction either in their own homes or at the Sunday school. What he and his friends pleaded for was half an hour's religious instruction a day for the children attending the day school, because it was their only chance of receiving such instruction. He did not wish the children to be taken away from that instruction to play marbles. This clause introduced a new condition in the country—namely, elementary schools without religion. All he could say was, God help the children and save them from being sacrificed to political alliances—from being made the pawns in the Party game. They were made for better things, and he only hoped that the Imperial Parliament would do nothing to tamper with the religious purpose of their lives.

*DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said this was a matter to which he had given great consideration because he recognised that it was of far reaching importance. There was really very much confusion of thought as to the existing state of the law. He was therefore very much obliged to the President of the Board of Education for the statement he made at the outset. The right hon. Gentleman correctly stated that Section 14 of of the Act of 1870 said to the parents—"You must bring your child to school at nine o'clock when the school opens; if you do not want religious instruction provided your child can stand aside, and the local authority—the school board that was—will provide secular instruction for the child in the meantime." Then the right hon. Gentleman said he was greatly surprised that the conscience clause had not operated to a greater extent than it had done, and he gave some reasons for that. He himself thought that the main reason why the conscience clause in the Act of 1870 had failed was that the parents thought their children were perfectly safe in the hands of the teachers, just as most hon. Members did in regard to their children. If these debates went on long enough he felt that he should be obliged to interfere in some way with the religious teaching which his children were getting at the present time. What it precisely was he could not say, and he hoped no one would say that he had not a keen regard for their welfare. No doubt another reason was that parents naturally shrank from exposing their children to the invidiousness of standing out. These two reasons formed the main grounds for the failure of the conscience clause. Although the attendance of the child was compulsory, they had never gone the length of prosecuting any working man because he had not sent his child to school until the close of the religious lesson. That was the law down to four years ago when it was very materially widened. In 1903 the hon. Member for Oxford University introduced a by-law, known as the "Anson" by-law. He was sure that the hon. baronet would not intentionally mislead the Committee, but he nevertheless had effectually done so in his references to this by-law. It was in the following terms—

> "The time during which every child shall attend school shall be the whole time for which the school selected shall be open for the instruction of children of similar age, provided that, where the parent has notified to the managers in writing his intention to withdraw the child from instruction in religious subjects, such time shall be the whole time for which the school selected shall be open for secular instruction only."

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: If the hon. Member will read the note, he will see exactly the object with which the by-law was offered to, not imposed upon, the local authorities for their consideration.

*DR. MACNAMARA said the note was as follows—

> "This proviso may be added in cases where the local education authority are satisfied that the circumstances of the locality justify its adoption in order to meet the wishes of parents who may desire to make arrangements for religious instruction for their children elsewhere than at school."

No doubt that was the intention, but the Board of Education had passed this by-law in a large number of cases without any such proviso. If the Government was to be charged with setting up what the noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone would describe as the ultimate cataclysm of secularism, it did not lie with the late Government, which originally laid down that by-law when the hon. Baronet was Parliamentary Secretary, to make the charge. What had been the result of the by-law? No less than thirty-seven counties, eight county boroughs, thirty-six non-county boroughs, and thirteen urban districts—ninety-four in all—in the short period of three years had put the Anson by-law into operation. He did not know that anything very terrible had happened in those areas. He had not heard that there had been an increase in child labour or that a large number of children had been withdrawn from religious teaching. His point was that the by-law was embodied in Clause 6 of the present Bill, and if there was to be a cataclysm of secularism the hon. Baronet opposite was responsible and not the present Government.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: Has the hon. Gentleman any reason to suppose that the by-law has not answered the purpose for which it was issued?

THE CHAIRMAN: We are really getting into a discussion about the by-law which, except in so far as it has a bearing upon the Amendment to the clause, has nothing to do with this discussion.

*DR. MACNAMARA said his point was that the justification of Clause 6 lay in the Anson by-law. He wanted the children to be taught the Bible, but he was doubtful whether they ought to be compelled to attend, especially under the new circumstances which this Bill would set up. There was some confusion of thought on the part of those who said that unless the children attended the religious lesson they would not get any religious teaching at all. Nothing could be more wide of the mark. If the religious lessons were stopped to-morrow, the children would get a good deal of sound, useful, religious teaching. He had been a pupil teacher, assistant teacher, and head teacher, for twenty years, and he knew that by far the most fruitful lessons were those which arose incidentally from time to time outside the formal Bible lesson. The Bible lesson consisted of Bible history, incidents, and names, to a large extent, and could not have much of real moral value in it. The hon. Member for East Mayo had spoken as if in the new Education Code he had found a new and strange system of moral teaching set up. There was no discovery at all. This was not the first time that moral teaching had been made an injunction on teachers. It was said in the new Code—

> "They (the teachers) can teach them what is noble, to be ready and self-sacrificing, and to strive their utmost after purity and truth."

Was not that religious teaching? All this was elaborated into a moral code in the Code issued that morning. The hon. Gentleman admitted that that was a most admirable elaboration, but he overlooked the fact that the teachers were specially enjoined to notice that—

> "The scope of such lessons should be carefully defined in order to guard against doing or expressing anything in the least subversive of the authority of religion."

He admitted that compulsion to attend school at religious instruction had, subject to the conscience clause, been the practice ever since 1870, although it was modified three years ago. Why had they been able successfully to compel the parents to send their children to school? The thing was entirely in the hands of the permanent school teachers, who were very discreet, very circumspect, and who used infinite good judgment. Had it not been for that discretion, circumspection, and good judgment there would have been a social revolution long ago. The teachers did not press denominational views, even in denominational schools where they knew the children were Nonconformists, so that by their good judgment compulsion had been made possible. But now they were starting a new system under which in every denominational school, on two mornings a week, they were going to have specific denominational teaching by others than the permanent teachers—by the clergymen, and the curates whose real purpose and intention must be to exalt and exaggerate what he would call the sectarian side of denominational religious teaching. Did the Committee think that in that case, with outside teachers necessarily inspired with this particular purpose of giving the teaching a special denominational turn—and he had not a word to say against them—did the Committee think that they could continue the system of compulsion? He was perfectly confident that they could not successfully do it. Under the Irish system, where they had Roman Catholic teaching every day in the week, it was specially laid down that the Protestant children should not be present. If it were true that they could not do it on two days in the week by outsiders who might be indiscreet, how much less could they do it every morning in the week! For all these considerations he was bound, notwithstanding the fact that he sympathised with the hon. Member for the Brightside Division, to support Clause 6 of the Bill.

*MR. BRACE (Glamorganshire, S.) said that this was the first occasion on which he had ventured to intervene in the debates on the Education Bill, and he would not have done so now had it not been for the misunderstanding or misconception of the real position taken up by himself and others who supported Clause 6. It was true that a number of Labour Members had gone into the lobby in support of a purely secular education, but it was not because they were anti-religionists or because they did not believe in Bible teaching. Most of them spent their Sundays in endeavouring to teach the Bible in Sunday schools, and it was a mistake to say that they were not in direct sympathy with giving religious instruction to children. He supported Clause 6 as it stood, because he accepted it as the charter of freedom and liberty of conscience. They had heard a good deal about the rights of the minorities; indeed there had been a good deal of special pleading for the rights of minorities; but now they were asked to say that the minorities should have no rights, that it should be compulsory on the parents to send their children to school during the hour of religious instruction. The object of Clause 6 was to place the children in exactly the same position as the teachers. He knew something of the working classes of the country; he was a workman himself and the son of a workman, and when he heard hon. Gentlemen speak as they had done regarding the attitude of parents towards religious teaching it showed that those Members did not quite understand the problems they were discussing. He pleaded for Clause 6 as it stood, and he was sorry the Government had not come before the Committee supporting the clause with all the weight of a united Cabinet behind it. At the same time as there were a number of people in the country who had conscientious objections to certain forms of teaching, it was the duty of this House to protect them.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON (Northumberland, Tyneside) said it had been very clear during the debate what the motives were which inspired opposition against Clause 6. A large number of hon. Members disavowed the very plea on which they founded their objection to the secular Amendment. They were now told that a great majority were absolutely opposed to secular instruction, and yet they said they had no faith in the children being sent to school for religious teaching unless they were compelled. His contention was that Clause 6 was the one Clause in the Bill that carried the issue in the right direction. It was almost the one truly liberal clause in the Bill. He thought he knew something about theology, but when he came to this House as a politician he found himself in a Sanhedrim of amateur theologians in which the Bill was discussed less on political than on religious grounds. There was one exception, but of what value was that? It was said that there would be new facilities given, or new inducements to child labour. If that were true, it was an extremely important consideration; but what effort had been made by hon. Gentlemen who took up that position to give the Committee anything in the nature of political or statistical information on the subject? What did they, as politicians, know of what was happening in the matter of child labour, or of the real value of religious instruction in the schools? If they wanted to discuss the question of under-feeding they appointed a Committee or Commission to make inquiries; but had anybody proposed to appoint a Commission to inquire into the actual results of the instruction which had been given in schools on religious lines for the last 100 years? If a great majority of the Members of this House had been born in a Mohammedan country they themselves would have been Mohammedans. Nobody could dispute that. For instance, the noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone would have been the most devout of Mullahs, and he believed the hon. Member for West Ham, despite his very pronounced ethical bias, to which he desired to pay a tribute, would have been very practically ethical on the lines of a good child of Islam. The beliefs which figured upon the floor of the House were political beliefs, but some hon. Members had given them confessions of faith. He respectfully deprecated all confessions of faith in that Assembly, as such confessions on the part of hon. Members holding positive forms of creed would justify countervailing ethical assertions, and yet how offensive those would be considered by hon. Members who were always giving them the assurances of their faith. He regretted that his hon. friend the Member for Leicester had given himself a certificate of spirituality in this matter, because they were not there to decide upon matters of spirituality. Surely they were present not as theologians but as politicians to decide these questions on political grounds. Clause 6 had the merit of being drawn on political grounds, and the only political consideration urged against it was that advanced by the hon. Member for Northampton, that it would not guard the children against the tendency of the worst class of parents to take their children from school and set them to work. Yet the conscience clause had not been taken advantage of for this purpose, and the worst class of parents were, in a variety of ways, under the influence of the Church missions. The opponents of the clause were trying to refuse one kind of political freedom to one of the best classes of parents. The Sermon on the Mount had been alluded to, and he would remind the Committee, therefore, that the noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone, on a previous occasion, had said—a wonderful effort of tolerance—that he did not object to that, but that such teaching was absolutely worthless from the point of view of Christianity.

LORD R. CECIL thought the hon. Member was not quite fair. The point he had discussed was how far Christian faith was taught in the schools, and he had said that as a definition of Christian faith the Sermon on the Mount was not sufficient, although he might have used stronger words.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON said what the noble Lord wanted was not moral teaching in the schools, but dogmatic teaching.

LORD R. CECIL said he wanted both—Christian faith and conduct.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON asked whose fault it was that education in this country was backward? For at least 100 years all education had been kept back by the constant action of the Church of England. The Church of England had been the stone in the wool. In any country where there was a clearly dominant church, there education was backward relatively with other countries.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member was not speaking either to the Amendment or to the clause.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON said he would drop that argument as far as he could and would confine himself to the Amendment and the clause. He wished to express his regret at the loss the House had sustained by the death of Sir Wilfrid Lawson, who had voted for the secular Amendment, and declared that the right way out of the theological wrangle, which was going on over the schools of this country, was to introduce secular education.

While the hon. Member was proceeding with his argument Mr. BELLOC (Salford, S.) on his way to his seat, passed between the hon. Member and the Chairman amidst cries of "order."

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order. I must explain to hon. Members that when any Member is speaking on the first or second bench, they must not cross between the hon. Member and the Chair.

MR. BELLOC: I must apologise to the Committee for my ignorance of its rules.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON said that Clause 6 would save the country from the tyrannous consequences which would flow from his Bill under the facilities given by Clause 4. In a considerable number of schools there would in consequence of those facilities be no escape from absolutely dogmatic teaching save by way of Clause 6. Dogmatic teaching might be right or wrong. The Committee was not permitted to express any opinion upon that, but it was not education. Education consisted in the eliciting of the powers of a child's mind and teaching it how to use its reason. Therefore dogmatic teaching was non-educational teaching, while Clause 6 was primarily an educational clause. He ventured to deprecate the unfortunate line which had been taken by the hon Member for East Mayo, who, while he backed up the right of parents to settle for themselves the education of their children in regard to members of his own faith, now came forward with a suggestion to disregard the rights of other parents, and to interfere with their rights. What was the value of the moral teaching given in the fashion which the hon. Member wished it to be given, if the child was to be taunted and mocked at by the very people who were giving it? It had been suggested by some who supported the Amendment that it would be possible so to arrange that the children who were withheld from the religious teaching might get secular teaching during that time. But how would that operate? How had it operated in the past? The right hon. Gentleman the Minister for Education had indicated his knowledge of a number of cases. In his opinion the secular teaching given to the withdrawn child was a species of teaching that was repellant to the child and not meant to carry on his secular education in any way. And he could quite understand that; because if it was thought that the withdrawn child was gaining three-fourths of an hour's secular teaching beyond that which was given to the other children, the parents of the other children would at once complain that their children were losing that education which was given to the withdrawn child. So that any secular system of that kind would have the effect of creating teaching which was objectionable and repellant. Those who supported Clause 6 did so because they held with the right hon. Gentleman that it was essential

In the opinion of masses of people in this country "clericalism is the enemy," and he felt that the more strongly when he saw the hon. Member for East Mayo showing a disposition to join the other forces in this House to curtail the liberty of the layman. The hon. Gentleman the Parliamentary Secretary had adopted the phrase "clericalism is the enemy." But that phrase did not mean that the clergy were the enemy. It did not mean that every clergyman was an enemy. The word clericalism was an intensive term, and meant the domination of the clerical influence and the clerical spirit over the lay spirit. He hoped most Members of the House did protest against clericalism in that sense. It was because he protested against it in that sense that he supported the Amendment.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said the two preceding speakers were among those who desired to see established in this country a purely secular system of education, and they, therefore, naturally supported Clause 6 in its present shape, and it certainly harmonised with the views they had laid before the Committee. But he confessed he had not been impressed by the strength of the arguments they had put forward. The hon. Gentleman who had just sat down had discovered two facts which rather startled him. The first was that the great enemy for 100 years to the cause of popular education in this country had been the Church of England—a statement which seemed to be belied by every passage in the history of the country. Any human being who looked into that history could see that the Church of England in the last 100 years, like the Church of Scotland in preceding centuries, had been the pioneer in the work of popular education, and had in that cause made infinite sacrifices, both pecuniary and other. Another discovery the hon. Gentleman had made had as little foundation in fact. It was that this Amendment was intended to help, and would have the effect of helping, the Church of England as distinguished from other denominations and other forms of religious teaching. The hon. Gentleman knew that the noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone bitterly complained that the clause compelled Cowper-Temple teaching, and excluded the teaching of the Church of England and the Church of Rome. He thought his hon. friend had rather exaggerated his case, because the Amendment did not apply to Cowper-Temple teaching alone, but it did compel the attendance of children for Cowper-Temple teaching in what were now voluntary schools, on three days out of the five. How the hon. Gentlemen with these facts staring him in the face could tell the Committee that an Amendment moved by a Nonconformist Member on the other side of the House was an Amendment intended to bolster up the teaching of the Church of England and the Church of Rome passed his comprehension. The hon. Gentleman had drawn a distinction, the value of which he could not apprehend, between political considerations and other considerations, and he had told the Committee that if they had been born in a Mohammedan country they would all have been Mohammedans, or if they had been born in a Bhuddist country they would all have been Bhuddists. The hon. Gentleman must carry that reasoning very much further if he adopted it at all. He advocated the teaching of morals in the schools as opposed to religion. If the hon. Gentleman had been born in a different century and in a different country his morality might not have been of the high type it was now. He must extend his argument to secular education, because had he had the misfortune to have been born in a less enlightened century and a less enlightened country, his views would have been at variance with those which he inculcated on the generation in which he happened to have been born. The hon. Gentleman would forgive him for putting aside the whole of that portion of his argument. He had asked, and the hon. Member for Mid. Glamorgan had also used the argument, why they wanted to compel children to attend religious instruction, seeing that they told them that the mind of the country was made up that religion should not be banished from the schools. If the parents really took this strong view on religion, they argued they did not require any compulsion for their children to attend religious instruction. They valued religion, and that was a sufficient guarantee that the children would attend even if no compulsion was placed upon them. That was the argument, and hon. Gentlemen who used it must remember that when they talked in England of the country desiring a certain thing they meant the majority of the country. Nobody denied that there might be parents who objected to religious teaching altogether — careless, selfish parents, parents who were indifferent and did not consider what was best for their children. Were they to leave those classes altogether uncared for ? By this clause such parents would be allowed to have an option. The argument of the hon. Gentleman was clearly opposed to the policy adopted for secular education. The parents in this country were not allowed to say that their children should not have secular education. They were compelled to send their children to school. They could not be trusted not to allow selfishness, carelessness, indifference, and other things to stand in the way of the education of their children. The opponents of the clause based their argument on that. What was good for secular education was equally good for religious education. What they objected to was that by drawing distinctions between the two classes of education they would discredit in the eyes of the parents and in the public opinion of the country that part of education to which hon. Gentlemen opposite refused to apply that compulsion which they felt justified in applying to the other half of the educational system. The hon. Member for North Camberwell approached the same topic from a wholly different point of view, and advanced an argument which, he thought, was new in the debate. If he understood the hon. Gentleman, his point was that compulsion in matters of religion was tolerable so long as the system was in existence which this Bill would upset ; and it was tolerable because it was carried out by the elementary teachers. But now that that system was to be upset, now that elementary teachers were not to be allowed to deal with religion, now that it was to be handed over to the clergy of the various denominations, they would have a wholly new influence imported. They would find that the priest or the Nonconformist minister would take such an exaggerated view of those things which divided Christians that the whole religious harmony of a district, which could only be preserved if religion was taught by the teacher in the school, would be lost. He thought the hon. Gentleman would admit that that was a fair statement of his argument. With the conclusion that was to be derived from the speech of the hon. Member for North Camberwell—namely, that the teacher should be allowed to give the religious instruction—he was in entire agreement. He did not share the hon. Gentleman's apprehension of a great increase in sectarian bitterness should the clergyman be forced to come into the school to give religious instruction. But he agreed that in the circumstances it was best that the religious instruction, whether denominational or undenominational, should be given by the teacher, who was responsible for the discipline of the school and understood the art of teaching, which was an entirely different matter from the science of theology. The Minister for Education had left the clause to the Committee. For that proceeding there were examples, but it was not usual, and was only justified in the case of a question about which there was a strong difference of opinion in the Cabinet or among the supporters of the Government. But, though the right hon. Gentleman had left the question to the Committee, he had not concealed his own emphatic opinion in favour of the clause as it stood. The argument upon which the right hon. Gentleman really rested his defence of the clause was that of freedom of conscience. The hon. Member for the Louth Division of Lincolnshire took the same line, but in their development of the same argument they absolutely contradicted each other. The Minister for Education had said that to compel the minority in a school—presumably Nonconformists — to attend during the time of religious instruction, and then to require from the teacher differential treatment for them was to put the unfortunate children in a position which was cruel to those of sensitive minds, who dreaded being marked out from the rest of their schoolmates. But the argument of the hon. Member for the Louth Division was that while in the schools which he knew best, where the great mass of the children were

Nonconformists, the majority would not press hardly upon the Church minority, in schools of another class the tyrannical squire or the intolerant parson would make the lives of Nonconformist parents a burden so bitter that they would not dare to obtain for their children that religious instruction which, left to themselves, they would naturally secure.

*MR. PERKS said the point he had tried to bring out was that, owing to the operation of Clause 3, national schools in Lincolnshire would have so strong a clerical atmosphere as to compel Nonconformist children attending them to adapt themselves to their form of religious teaching.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: What a compliment to the Act of 1902! These evils which under the Act of 1902 were either avoided or reduced to relative insignificance were all brought back to full activity by Clause 3 of this Bill! The hon. Member for the Louth Division appeared to hold the view, which had been publicly expressed by Dr. Clifford or some other eminent Nonconformist Divine, that this Bill was far more clerical than the Act of 1902. When he remembered that there was to be compulsory Cowper-Temple teaching every day of the week in schools attended by Nonconformist majorities, he must say that that was an opinion rather unjust to the Bill. It was not his business to defend the Bill, but he thought the time had come when the right hon. Gentleman should obtain justice even from his friends. It had been pointed out that in the county council schools the question of conscience never came up, and that the idea that the denominational minorities attending them were oppressed was a complete delusion. The same thing was exactly true of voluntary schools. There was no conscience difficulty in these schools. In truth, the idea that the minority of children in the one class of school or the other was going to be made miserable had no foundation in fact, and ought not to be allowed to influence the decision of the Committee in regard to the clause. He could not conceive how hon. Members opposite who believed in religious instruction forming part of the country's national system of education could consistently vote against the Amendment. How was it possible for them to defend their view of the position which religion should hold in elementary education if they drew a distinction between secular and religious subjects, and said that, while the teaching of the first must be compulsory, the teaching of the other must be voluntary? Such an attitude would inevitably lead to the destruction of that blending of religion with education which for forty years the strongest efforts of the House had been directed to make an indestructible part of the social life of the people. The Members of the House who believed in a purely secular system of education were a small minority. Every other section of the House, undenominational or denominational, so long as they were in favour of religious teaching in the schools, were bound to support the Amendment. He found it difficult to believe that any Member who voted against the Amendment either fully understood its consequences or really entertained the view that religion was a necessary element of national welfare, and consequently should form part of the elementary education of the children of the country.

*MR. H. R. MANSFIELD (Lincolnshire Spalding) said he was afraid that Members from Ireland who supported the Amendment had lost sight of the fact that there were hundreds of rural villages in England in which there were no Roman Catholic schools, and that the clause would be a distinct help to the Catholics residing in such villages. Under present conditions Catholics so situated were forced to take the Anglican teaching or occupy an invidious position under the conscience clause. But under Clause 6 they would be able to keep their children from school during the hour of religious instruction. He was astonished that the Anglican section of the community did not welcome Clause 6. In view of what had been said in the course of the debates respecting Cowper-Temple teaching, he would have thought that those who objected to that form of instruction would have been glad of the opportunity which the clause would secure to them of preventing their children receiving it. Speaking on behalf of the agricultural labourers, many of whom lived in his constituency, he said that many labourers were Nonconformists, but such men were without the powerful organisations which Anglican and Catholics had behind them to investigate their grievances. The Nonconformist labourer was weak, and his views were often inarticulate, although his religion was to him as dear as—and probably much dearer—than was the religion of the dweller in the town to him. His chances of success in life were practically *nil*, and if he was a religious man he looked forward to another life in which things might be more equal. Being often of the same religion as his father, he desired that his children should be of the same religion as himself. Up to the present he had been under the operation of the conscience clause. If Clause 6 were eliminated he would be driven back upon that. He believed that would be a calamity. He had nothing to say against the conscience clause except that it had been of no use. He once spoke in a village school, and when he had finished the clergyman and the schoolmaster pointed out to him high up on the wall a dirty placard which turned out to be a copy of the conscience clause. He said at the time that it seemed to him that no one had ever read it, and he was told that there was no religious difficulty in that village. The fact was children did not like to be put in an invidious position; and under that clause parents were often put in not only an invidious but a dangerous position. The children had first to bear the brunt, and if the father chose to over-ride the child and stand by the conscience clause, then he himself had very often to run the gauntlet. It was all very well to say that these tyrannical employers did not exist, but they did, and men had now often to pay the price of their convictions, and if they asked for the operation of the present conscience clause they had to pay a price which they were little able to bear. He agreed with the Minister for Education that no conscience clause was worth anything unless it carried with it the right to withdraw a child during the time of religious instruction. They asked for Clause 6 as it stood, because they felt that it brought freedom for the Anglican against simple Bible teaching, freedom for the Catholic against Protestant teaching, freedom for the Nonconformist against sectarian teaching, and freedom for the secularist against any religious teaching at all. It was because they believed it paved the way for freedom that they wanted to adhere to the clause as it stood. The hon. Member for the Basingstoke Division had said that Clause 4 was jerrymandered by the Nonconformist in the interest of the Roman Catholics. This was not so; the Nonconformist did not like and did not want Clause 4. Hon. Members opposite ought not to speak of jerrymandering after that exhibition of it which was given in the wear and tear Amendment. He thought that the only people in danger of jerrymandering were the parents. The rights of the parent had been put forward in aid of denominational teaching, but now that the whole matter was proposed to be left to the parent they were being told that Parliament must decide the matter. They did not think that the parent had a right to demand a certain teaching, but they did say that he had a right to say that he would not have some other teaching. They asked that the parents should have liberty in this matter; if there was to be any compulsion of the child it ought to be the direct act of the parent and not of the State. He hoped the Committee would stand by this clause. They were asking for justice to the agricultural and other labourers, and he trusted there would be an overwhelming vote in favour of freedom to all classes and sections of the community, which would be secured by leaving this question of religion for the parents themselves to decide.

MR SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall), in supporting the Amendment, said the question appeared to him to be whether religious instruction was to continue to be compulsory during school hours. He represented a city where the Act of 1902 had been a very great success, because both political Parties made up their minds to lay aside their religious differences and work for the benefit of the children alone. The result was that good feeling had prevailed between the education committee and the managers of voluntary schools. He had asked the

Archdeacon of Sheffield what would be the result in the voluntary schools if Clause 6 were carried, and he had replied that by taking religious teaching outside school hours and leaving it optional they were doing a cruel injury to the children of careless parents whose children needed religious instruction most. The Archdeacon further stated that by this clause they would be putting a premium upon non-attendance; that parents would be tempted to keep their boys at home to work and girls would be wanted at home by their mothers; and the children would prefer to play. The result would be that the bulk of the children would never learn any religion at all. What had happened in America? There pressure was brought to bear on account of sectarian animosities and denominational teaching was taken away from the schools. *Pari passu* with this the attendance at the Sunday schools in America dropped off. The President of the Board of Education said he wanted to make the conscience clause a reality. It had been a reality. The children had not been withdrawn from the schools during religious instruction because they had no real reason for withdrawing them. From inquiries made of the teachers in the thirty-five voluntary Church schools of Sheffield—many of whom had been in the schools for thirty or forty years—as to whether children had been withdrawn during their terms of office it appeared that, with the exception of a few Jews, not a single child had been withdrawn. The Minister for Education said it was possible that the parents did not withdraw their children because they did not wish to place them in an invidious position. Surely the conscience of a parent could not be very sensitive if that were allowed to stand in the way of withdrawing a child from the religious instruction. A former Member of this House who sat on the Opposition side in the last Parliament said to him the other day—

> "The House of Commons is engaged in seeing what is the minimum of religious education that may be given in the schools. Though our Master said, 'Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature,' you are trying how little you can teach to the children who are afterwards to be the manhood and womanhood of England."

Mr. ROGERS (Wiltshire, Devizes) said that since the passing of the Act of 1902 he had been engaged one day a week in the working of the Act in his own county. He felt that Clause 6 raised an exceedingly important question from the point of view of administration. The working out of this Bill when it became law would devolve entirely on the local authorities, and he submitted that nothing should be done to make it more difficult for them to carry out the important and arduous duties with which they were entrusted. He disliked Clause 6 because it said that religious instruction was to be outside of school hours, and that it was to form no part of the normal life of the day schools. He submitted that that was not in accordance with the scheme of the Government. The Bill, as he understood it, was based on the principle of undenominationalism, He had heard a number of speeches from the Treasury Bench defending the Bill on the lines of simple Bible teaching. It seemed to him that if it was right to instigate and encourage a local authority to give simple Bible teaching power ought to be given to make that teaching part of the normal curriculum of the school. Under Clause 6 they were not doing that. It was left entirely an open matter. From the point of view of the discipline of the school he could not disguise from himself the strong conviction that the effect of making the religious teaching outside the school hours would be that the children would come in between nine o'clock and a quarter to ten in irregular batches. That would utterly destroy the common life of the school during the three quarters of an hour, and if the children came in from time to time it would be impossible for the teacher to give them proper instruction. The alternative was to make the children stay outside the school till a quarter to ten. In the case of village schools to which the children came long distances it would be to keep them outside until the first lesson was over. From the point of view of discipline, therefore, Clause 6 would not be an improvement. Having the greatest possible sympathy with the principle of religious freedom, he did not think the present conscience clause had worked in a satisfactory manner in the great majority of cases. If a Nonconformist child was withdrawn from the ordinary religious teaching and given the multiplication table to learn in the corner of the classroom, that was an invidious and detestable position in which to put a small child. The way to make the clause effective was to allow the children to be withdrawn not only from the class but also from the premises. He thought that trouble had come because under the Act of 1870 the conscience clause was interpreted as only allowing withdrawal from the class and not from the premises. There were exceptions to that at the present time. Under the by-law children were withdrawn from the school premises, provided that their parents asked permission in writing. So far as he was aware, the local authority had not insisted on any form of religious instruction being given by the parents. He thought it would be impossible for any local authority to follow a child to its home, or to cross-examine a child as to what it was doing during the time it was withdrawn. There were schools which had so few rooms that there was no place in which a child could be put when withdrawn from religious instruction. He contended that it should be possible to withdraw the children from the premises as well as from the class if proper protection was to be given. It was obvious that under the new Bill the conscience clause would not be required in so many cases as hitherto. If a parent desired to withdraw his child from a Church school where teaching was of a particular character, there would always be the alternative of Cowper-Temple teaching, and he did not anticipate that there would be the same urgency for the operations of the conscience clause in future. If his hon. friend the Member for the Brightside Division could see his way to add to his Amendment some Amendment on the lines of the one of which he himself had given notice he thought it would meet the case.† He was not inclined to think that the question of child labour was very much more than a bogey. If it was more than that it ought to be dealt with by legislation passed for the regulation of the employment of children. If a parent was put under the obligation of writing to the local authority claiming exemption for his child on conscientious grounds, he did not fancy a parent would do that in order to get his child put to work. He was certain that a conscientious objection would only be taken by a parent who felt strongly on the subject. He thought the clause as it stood was a danger to discipline and would hamper the local education authority in maintaining the efficiency of its education. He believed the local education authority should have the opportunity of making religious instruction part of the normal life of the school.

*MR. G. GREENWOOD (Peterborough) said they were all agreed in wanting to see a final settlement of this question, so far as there could be finality in mundane affairs. Above all, they were agreed in wishing to see an end of those deplorable disputes and controversies concerning dogma and doctrine which were an injury to the great cause of national education which they all had at heart, or which they all professed to have at heart. But they would never see that finality, that end to disputes and controversies unless the question was settled on sound and intelligible principles —principles that would secure that strict and impartial justice was meted out to every section of the community so that no majority would be able to oppress any minority in the country however numerically insignificant that minority might be. What was the principle for which the passive resisters had been so long and strenuously contending? It was that no man ought to be compelled by law to pay for the support of any religious teaching to which he was conscientiously opposed. That seemed to him a most admirable principle, and should be taken as a first principle in this matter. It seemed to him an odious thing to use all the powers of the State to coerce a man to pay for religious teaching of which he conscientiously disapproved. But if he was right in that, what was the result? We had now quartered all our public elementary schools comfortably on the rates and taxes, and the State levied rates and taxes with the most sublime impartiality from every citizen, without asking him what was his religious belief, or even if he had any religious belief at all. What would happen when this Bill became law? They would be taxing thousands of their fellow-countrymen in order to compel them to pay for religious teaching of which they disapproved, in direct violation of the principle which he had ventured to lay down, the principle for which the passive resisters had contended, and every passive resister who—he did not say supported this Bill, because the Bill was an immense improvement on the Act of 1902—but who actively supported the teaching of religion in State schools at public expense, would show that, consciously or unconsciously, he had been only fighting for his own hand, and was now ready to throw on others the very burden against which he had so loudly protested when it was laid on his own shoulders. They had heard a great deal from the benches opposite about the right of parents. It was said that a parent had a right to have his children brought up in his own religion. That came rather remarkably from the Party which, for a quarter of a century, had opposed, tooth and nail, the enactment of a conscience clause, and had said in effect to every parent in rural districts "You must send your children to Church schools to be educated in the doctrines of the Church of England, unless you are content to leave them without any secular education at all." A parent had a right to bring up his children in his own religion, but he had not a right to demand that his children should be educated in any religion he pleased at the State expense, otherwise this country would have to embark in a gigantic system of concurrent endowment which would embrace not only all forms and varieties of Christianity, but which must also in justice comprehend many other shades and varieties of faith not excluding the ethical societies. The parent had no right to demand that his child should be brought up in any religion he chose at the State expense. The only right of the parent in this connection was that his children should not be taught in the State school any religion of which he disapproved. The case was put admirably by the present Secretary for India in a book published in 1873 on National education—

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† The Amendment referred to was to add at the end of the Amendment under discussion, "and provided that when a parent has notified to the managers in writing his intention to withdraw the child from the schoolhouse during the time allotted to such religious observation or instruction, he shall not be under any obligation to cause the child to attend at such schoolhouse, except during the times allotted in the time-table exclusively to secular instruction.'

> "The answer was simple and obvious. Parents have an inalienable right to choose the kind of religious instruction which their children shall receive. No one disputes that. Our simple contention is that along with this right of choosing their religious instruction goes the duty of paying for it. If I say to the parent, 'your child shall not be allowed to receive instruction in Catholic doctrine, or in Baptist doctrine,' I am a tyrant. If the parent should say to me, 'I insist that you shall pay for instructing my child in doctrines which you do not accept,' then it is he who is the tyrant. Yet nothing less than this is involved in the present educational system. We are teaching the religion of some with money raised by the taxation of all."

Then the right hon. Gentleman went on to say—

> "Writers for the newspapers, who had not always time to think about the terms they use, have the face to insist that we are for depriving the majority of the community of the right of giving their children a religious education. What we really seek is to deprive the majority of the right of making the minority pay for giving this education to other people's children. . . . We are next told that the ratepayers, when asked to speak for themselves, reply all over the kingdom by overwhelming majorities, as if, in religious affairs it were not a settled principle of our Government that the majority, however great it may be, and however strenuous its convictions, shall still not force the conscience of the minority. We force Quakers to pay for war, and Peculiar People to call in doctors; but the protection of the Realm and the protection of life are secular ends, not religious ends, like teaching catechism."

He held that that was a perfectly good and logical distinction, and he was surprised that hon. Gentlemen supported the proposition that if they were entitled to have compulsory secular instruction, they were entitled to have compulsory religious instruction also. The conscience clause was an admission that they were teaching in State schools what they had no right to teach compulsorily. In regard to the difference between secular and religious education, the argument of the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for India in his book was wholly admirable, and he could have wished that it had been in the hands of every Member in the House before these debates came on. The author said—

> "Secular instruction is one thing, and religious instruction is something quite different; no one who accepts Government aid on condition of a conscience clause can deny this absolute separation. The State has no more to do with the provision of religious instruction than it has to do with the provision of a band of music for

each parish. That is the affair of those who want music, or who want religious instruction. There is no prohibition nor wish to prohibit. There is only absolute neutrality and indifference."

As one who had long been in favour of the "secular solution" he could not wholly approve of the Bill, but at least he thought they were entitled to have an efficient conscience clause, and the President of the Board had clearly demonstrated, and had enforced his argument by an appeal to his own school experience, that they could not have an efficient conscience clause unless this clause remained intact. If it were otherwise the children who claimed the benefit of the conscience clause at the school would have to submit to be called "little atheists" or "little agnostics." The hon. Member for Northampton had sneered at the term "agnostic," but for himself he deprecated controversy of that sort because, as had been said by an hon. friend of his before, it might lead to retaliation and to the discussion of questions which could not properly be discussed in this House. He would content himself therefore with saying that the hon. Member for Northampton appeared to have forgotten his Greek. "Agnostic" was a perfectly good word, which had been introduced by Professor Huxley. The "gnostic" was the man who professed to know all things, and the agnostic was the man who said he did not know. He was very glad to see that the new Code included provisions for definite moral instruction as part of the secular work, such as the duty of kindness to animals. He had no hesitation in saying that was more valuable instruction for the child, and more truly religious than the teaching of certain stories which some of the greatest scholars within the Church itself told them might be dismissed as mythology. He supported this clause, not because it was logical—he was aware that nobody cared a straw for logic in matters political, and still less in matters theological—but because it was just, and he would never believe that that which was consonant to justice could be at variance with true religion.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.) said that no doubt the State, having collected the rates and taxes, did not consider very much what religion was taught in the schools. His view, however, was that the people had a right to say that the money they paid should be disbursed in a way of which they approved. It was said that the conscience clause had been in this country for many years inoperative, but supposing that to have been the case—a very large assumption—would not the influence of the local authority have considerable bearing in regard to the operation of this conscience clause? The Catholics had no reason to complain of the operation of the conscience clause, loose as it was, and he was sure they would never have reason to do so. Their objection to this clause was that it placed religious education in a secondary position. They regarded religious and moral teaching as of far more importance than the secular part of education, and they could not assent to any proposal which placed religious and moral teaching upon a secondary plane. For himself he thought the local authority would be able to see that the conscience clause became a reality.

*MR. HELME (Lancashire, Lancaster) said he did not think it could be disputed that the object which the Government had in view in introducing this clause had been to incorporate in the Bill a genuine conscience clause, which all of them on the Ministerial side of the House claimed to be necessary. Hon. Members opposite scarcely realised how Nonconformists felt upon this question, and without for one moment suggesting that the clergy and the teachers employed in the voluntary schools of the country had distinctly set themselves to inculcate doctrines which they believed to be regarded as false by many of the parents of the children, yet it was the fact that their fidelity in presenting various aspects of Church teaching had offended the feelings of a very large number of parents. The doctrines which were taught under the word Church in the Creed included that of the Apostolic succession, and in regard to that and other matters there should, he thought, be greater security under the conscience clause in future than there had been in the past. But whilst holding that view he would ask whether they might not, in endeavouring to obtain relief from the intolerance which had obtained in the past, be going too far in accepting this clause. He admitted that in regard to the undenominational and secular aspect of school life the irregularity of attendance might demand very careful consideration. It was possible, quite apart from the action of the parents, that the children themselves might play truant, and as the Committee had decided in favour of religious instruction being continued in the schools the question was whether as a matter of practical politics they could not secure a position which would prevent them from drifting into a purely secular system. It seemed to him that if the Government were to adopt the Amendment now before the Committee amended by the omission of the word "secular" and the substitution of the words "in such pure and simple ethics and moral order as shall be approved by the education authority," and at the same time make the Anson by-law obligatory, they might arrive at a solution of the question. They would then have three alternatives which would provide for religious instruction as part and parcel of the ordinary school curriculum subject to the restrictions of this real conscience clause which would not permit children whose parents did not desire it to participate in it. If they took the case it provided for, they had a provision to bring the child to school at nine in the morning, and if the parent did not desire his child to receive religious instruction the child was to be put into another place to receive alternative, not secular instruction. If the Anson by-law was made obligatory all that the parent would have to do would be to write a letter to the schoolmaster and the child would be absolved from attendance. That would enable those who desired no religious instruction to be given to their children to be satisfied, and it would allow those persons who did desire their children to have special religious instruction to have their children taken by the clergyman or the priest and given special instruction in the Church or some other place. Whilst as a Nonconformist he urged the claim of unsectarian education he wished to be perfectly fair to the consciences of others. If this by-law was made obligatory they would make the Bill very much more satisfactory in its working in the country, because there would be no reason for those who objected to it adopting the policy of passive resistance—which it was said they might be compelled to adopt. Thus the children might have religious instruction different in degree; it might be the Cowper-Temple teaching for five days a week, or on the other hand they might have dogmatic teaching on two days in the week supplemented by the Cowper-Temple teaching on three days in the week, or in the four-fifths schools sectarian teaching five day a week, or the children might not come at all. He would rather take the risk under these conditions of unfair influences being brought to bear on the children than he would willingly consent to a system which would exclude religion from the schools. He should therefore support the Amendment of his hon. friend and would try to vary it in the manner he had indicated.

*Mr. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) said he rose to support the Amendment of the hon. Member for the Brightside Division, which he hoped would receive the hearty support of the Committee. It did not entirely meet the views of those with whom he sat, but it went, as they believed, a long way towards removing what they held would be very mischievous in the clause as it now stood. He desired to associate himself with the hon. Baronet who recently spoke from below the gangway in this matter. In their opinion religious instruction was absolutely vital for the happiness of the children and must be given under the most favourable conditions. It had in their opinion to be kept close to secular education in order that there might be no sense, in the mind of the child, of its being divorced from secular education. They wanted religious and secular education to be given together in the school so that the child should be impregnated with the religion for which they had all striven during all these years. All that was not to be had in this Amendment, but it went some way towards it. The clause, as it stood, practically destroyed that for which they were contending. There were some, he knew, who felt that if increased facilities were given to children to avoid certain things they would immediately go and do them, but that was not his experience. If they made it easier for people to keep their children away from religious instruction were they acting wisely? It seemed to them that the clause was bent upon destroying all religious instruction in the schools and it was because of that that they felt so strongly about it. But they felt, quite apart from that, that religious instruction should have the first place, and they would not be satisfied with its being put at the end of the morning or squeezed into an odd half-hour in the afternoon. They believed it should come first and be made the most important of all, and tone the whole education which the children received. They believed that if religious instruction was taken out of the school hours the impression on the child's mind would be that religious instruction was inferior to that which they were receiving in the school. Another point they did not lose sight of was that religious instruction being given largely and chiefly by the teachers themselves gave the teachers on the one hand an immense leverage over the children, and on the other influenced the children very much in accepting the teaching. He knew that vast numbers of teachers in this country would strongly oppose any attempt to prevent their giving religious instruction to their children, because they knew the power of it. If, as the hon. Member for North Camberwell had told them, the most effective instruction that he had given was given not in connection with the Bible, but in connection with certain moral lessons it certainly was not the fault of the Bible. Those with whom he had the honour to sit recognised that in the Scripture lessons there was the power of God to enable the child to absorb them, but no one would suggest that there was such a power behind mere moral maxims. And it was because there was this power behind religious teaching that they insisted upon it, and that they, with God's help, would see that it should have the first place in the school; that it should be the paramount influence in the school life of the children. The hon. Member for North Camberwell had also said that the great reason why children were not withdrawn under the conscience clause was that the parents had confidence in the teachers. He believed that was true, because up to now they had been able to ascertain that the teachers believed in the divine truths which they were called upon to teach. He would just like to say a word on the subject of some observations which fell from the hon. Member for one of the divisions of Northumberland. The hon. Gentleman deprecated their taking up a religious ground on this subject, and said that the Bill was political. He, however, thought it was very difficult altogether to divorce the political from the religious on most occasions, and he was not sure that it was desirable that they should do so. He thought, at any rate, that the moral, if not the religious side, of legislation, ought to be considered, and he was certain that as a rule it was considered by hon. Members in this House. He protested at all events against the idea that this Bill was to be separated in their minds from religious considerations. Then the same hon. Member had spoken of education as being the drawing out of the powers of the child's mind. The hon. Gentleman apparently thought that that was all that they should expect of education. Many of them claimed that education, to be worth its name, must draw out all the powers of the child.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said the remarks of the hon. Gentleman were very general and were not confined to the Amendment.

*Mr. CARLILE said he was merely trying to explain why they laid so much stress upon the importance of the spiritual nature of the child. The hon. Member for West Ham said his faith was strong that religion would be continued in the schools, but he did not give any reason for the hope that was in him, excepting his faith in something that might happen in the future which would lead to the maintenance of religious instruction, notwithstanding the fact that he would make it extremely easy for parents to keep their children away from religious instruction, and for children to avoid it. They did not believe in the view held by the hon. Gentleman, and therefore for the most part he believed hon. Members on the Opposition side and those below the Gangway would support the Amendment.

*Mr. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) said the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down had asked the Committee to combine their religion and politics in a most extraordinary fashion, but he seemed to have forgotten one point, and that was that His Majesty's Government had left it an absolutely open question. There was no question of Liberal or of Tory so far as this clause and Amendment were concerned, and he thought the Government had been very well advised in their action because there was nothing of a departmental nature whatever about the Amendment or the clause. The knowledge which was necessary for anyone to come to a conclusion was as open to any humble Member of this House as it was to the Minister for Education himself. The Amendment was rather an extraordinary one. It was proposed by a Nonconformist and supported by Roman Catholics and by Members of the Anglican Church. That fact in itself showed that it had nothing whatever to do with various denominations. In his opinion, the point at issue with regard to this Amendment was whether they were in favour of religious education or a secular system of education. The hon. Member for Northampton had poured scorn on what he was pleased to call the doctrine of mandate. He would not go into the question of mandate now, but this he would say, that every hon. Member when it did not conflict with his conscientious feelings liked to do what the majority of his constituents desired, and he was quite certain that the majority of his constituents desired religion to be taught in the school and the hours of teaching to be made compulsory, of course subject to the conscience clause. He did not think the conscience clause was satisfactory at the present time, and he would like to see the Minister for Education brace it up as much as was necessary. If they passed the clause as it stood and refused to accept the Amendment they would be putting all the delights of playtime in competition with religious teaching. It would be a very extraordinary child that did not prefer to play games rather than be taught religion or anything else. Another fact to be remembered with regard to this clause was that they were, in the case of the towns at any rate, putting the desire of gain in the minds of parents. In all our large towns children of ten or eleven years of age might easily earn a few coppers in the time given to religious instruction, and he would sincerely regret if that should happen. So far as council schools in the rural districts were concerned, religious teaching was entirely under the Cowper-Temple Clause, and, where a school under this Bill would be a transferred voluntary school, on three days of the week there would be Cowper-Temple instruction, and on other two days denominational teaching, but he also hoped that on these two days there would be the alternative of Cowper-Temple teaching to those children who desired it. He hoped that that would be made sure on the Report stage of the Bill; if it were he did not think any one, whatever his denomination, could have a grievance if religious education were made compulsory. The hon. Member for North Camberwell said he found in the course of his experience as a school master that more good was done incidentally during the days' teaching than during the time of the religious lesson. Surely if that were an argument at all it was an argument for abolishing all forms of religious teaching at the opening of school, and that proved that the issue was really one between secular education and religious education, and therefore he for his part intended to vote for the Amendment and against the clause.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton) said he should vote for the Amendment and against the clause. The clause would really operate quite differently from what seemed to be generally thought in the Committee. It would have the fate of the conscience clause, and would remain absolutely inoperative; in fact it was only a conscience clause in another form. Why was the conscience clause a dead letter? It was said that the people were afraid of exercising their rights under it because they were afraid of tyranny. That at any rate did not account for it in his part of the country. Nobody would say that a Lancashire cotton spinner was afraid of anybody, and he was sure he would not be afraid of any parson. What was the strongest force which affected people generally in regard to this matter? It was not superstition but habit. The working classes were in the habit of doing this and that, and the last thing they would ever think of was doing something that was contrary to the habits in which they had been brought up. For more than thirty years it had been the habit of the people to send their children to school at nine o'clock in the morning, and they thought that was the proper time. In Lancashire, where the fathers and mothers got up at 5.30 in the morning, it would be preposterous to suggest to them that the time to send their children to school was 9.45, for that would be turning the whole thing into ridicule. This clause would become an absolute dead letter for the very same reason that the conscience clause had become a dead letter. The great mass of people would continue to send their children to school at nine o'clock and only the bad parents would take advantage of this clause in order to utilise the labour of their children. The result would be that all these children who went to school at nine o'clock would have to receive this religious education because there was nothing else for them. He thought the chidren ought to have the choice of a good secular teaching beginning at nine o'clock. They had heard so much about education and conscience that he was disposed to become quite frivolous, for he was sick of the whole thing. He wanted to look at the matter from the 'bus driver's point of view or the point of view of ordinary people. He was an employer of labour himself, and he found that all sorts of reasons were given for sending children to a particular school, but he never heard one give the religious view. Let them drop all this talk about conscience and give them an alternative at nine o'clock. It was nonsense to lose the best part of the morning. They had been asked to consider the education of the children, but they appeared to him to be always forgetting that. From the point of view of the children, could any hon. Member deny that nine o'clock was late enough to commence school? It was nonsense to begin school later than that hour. They ought to give the children a choice. Let them give the parents the alternative of sending their children to religious teaching from 9 to 9.45 or some other teaching. Give them a fair choice and abide by the result. This clause would play into the hands of exclusive religious teaching. It would also play into the hands of the improvident, careless parent and would deprive the children of the most valuable three-quarters of an hour during the day.

LORD BALCARRES said the hon. Member had under-estimated the danger to the children from improvident and careless parents. The Minister for Education had recognised that difficulty. It would not be easy to strengthen the law to meet that danger. He would support the Amendment because he wanted to see religious instruction given distinctly within school hours. Clause 6 as it stood distinctly put religious instruction outside school hours, or, at all events, made attendance thereat unnecessary. In some schools religious instruction was not by any means confined to the beginning of the day. There were schools in Lincolnshire where it was given on four separate occasions during the day, and if the children were free to come and go upon those occasions there must inevitably be confusion and disorganisation, which in itself must be bad for discipline. In the Code which had just been issued it was laid down that football and rounders should, under certain conditions, be put within school hours. He was all for putting rounders within school hours, but he was equally for including religious instruction within school hours. The one was at least as important as the other, and he was quite certain that, however the public might regard Clause 1 and the other great operative clauses of the Bill, it would prefer that this clause should be excluded. He sincerely trusted that the Committee would either amend the clause in the direction proposed by the Member for the Brightside Division of Sheffield or exclude it altogether.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.) said he came down to the House with the intention of supporting the clause, but he found such omissions in the speech of his right hon. friend the President of the Board of Education that he felt that, on the whole, the difficulties which surrounded the insertion of the clause were greater than were fully realised. The speech of his right hon. friend omitted to meet the question of discipline in the schools and the difficulties of child labour, which were very much more real in the rural districts of England than seemed to be realised. He thought difficulty would arise in the working of the clause on account of the different times at which little children in the rural districts would leave the scattered cottages in which they lived. That was a small point in the minds of Members of this House, but it loomed largely in the imagination of the parents of the children in the districts, and it was one which could not be omitted in considering the administration of the Bill. As to child labour, he thought that a great many Members of the House were not fully alive to the extent to which it was practised in the rural districts of England, and especially in the small towns. About a year and a half ago he went into the question of child labour as practised in Wiltshire. There were two inquiries, the first being held through the agency of the police. The representatives of the police said there was no great amount of child labour in the county. That Report was not regarded as satisfactory and application was made to the school teachers and the school attendance officers for information as to the conditions under which the children lived. Their Reports entirely reversed the evidence given by the police. It was pointed out that the selling of milk and newspapers was indulged in to a great and growing degree by parents at the expense of the children up to the hour when the schools were opened. The county council made by-laws which prohibited the employment of children in all the cases they could touch up to forty minutes before the hour for the schools opening. If the regular hour for opening the school was postponed till a quarter to ten, there might be an extension of this child labour which was most deleterious from the point of view of education. It might be said that the parents who drew a profit—he would say a wicked profit—from the labour of young children were few. The information obtained from the teachers was that this was not so. However well acquainted the hon. Member for Tyneside might be with the conditions in great industrial towns, he could not be acquainted with the industrial conditions in the rural districts, for otherwise he would not have minimised the question of child labour in the way he had done. Hon. Gentlemen who had declared themselves secularists had had the courage to vote against the Government. Let those who were in favour of some religious instruction in the schools also have the courage of their convictions. If it was right that there should be religious instruction, they should not have a clause like this. For these reasons he found himself, somewhat against his will, bound to vote against the clause.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington) said this was one of the most important questions that had ever been placed before the House of Commons, and he believed the right hon. Gentleman, in allowing the Committee to give a free decision, had done the right thing. The case of the Shalford schools in Surrey showed conclusively that if children were given the option whether they should go to school or not they did not go. A Church school at Shalford was transferred to an association under lease on the condition that the trustees might provide what religious teaching they liked prior to 9.45, but neither children nor teachers were obliged to be at the school prior to that hour. The vicar and curate taught regularly, but the limit of attendance at the voluntary religious lessons was unsatisfactory. The system was found to encourage irregularity and unpunctuality, the results of the teaching were disappointing, and the system was considered so detrimental to the school as an educational machine that when the lease fell in the county council officials declined to entertain the idea of continuing it on the same terms. What they wished to see taught in the schools of this country was the Christian religion—not something which might equally well be Mohammedanism. It was impossible to look at this great question entirely from the political point of view; they must to some extent look at it from the point of view of their faith. He hoped the Amendment would be carried by a large majority.

MR. ASHTON (Bedfordshire, Luton) said he looked at this question not only on religious grounds, but still more largely on educational grounds. He must confess that he had never himself been an advocate of excessive religious instruction in the schools. In his own district they had religious instruction for one hour on Mondays. He was unable to see why, if two hours religious instruction a week sufficed in public schools, the children in elementary schools should require more. He himself considered that the extra time might be made better use of in the secular education of the children. He had always felt that the Sunday school and the home ought to do most of the religious instruction of the children. At the same time, in the great towns where there was a residuum of the population, and where the parents did not care whether their children got any religious instruction at all, these children should have a chance of receiving some religious instruction. But it was not mainly from the religious aspect that he viewed this question and proposed to vote against the clause. It was on educational grounds. He agreed very largely with what his hon. friend the Member for East Bristol had said about the waste of educational time if the children were not compelled to go to school at nine o'clock to have some kind of instruction. There was another view. The children withdrawn from religious instruction would be wasting their time in the streets or in the fields for three-quarters of an hour every day while the other children, who were receiving religious instruction, were at any rate learning something, and their minds were being trained. Another aspect of the question was that the State would lose. They were spending enormous sums of money on these schools, but there would be a great waste of the State money if for three-quarters of an hour every day the schools and the teachers were not employed in doing the work of education for the withdrawn children. He admitted that there was a certain amount of risk of the children withdrawn from religious instruction having the finger of scorn pointed at them, and possibly being called atheists, but he thought that the chances at this time of day of the parson or the teacher treating the children as Nonconformists, as they used to do, were limited indeed. In the first place, this Bill would put the clergyman in a very different position from that which he occupied when he was the only manager; and in the case of teachers they had now become servants of the State, and servants of the county, and they would find political influences in their way which they did not in the old times.

MR. WALTERS rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put;" but the Chairman withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question.

*MR. CLAVELL SALTER (Hants, Basingstoke) said he approached this matter from the point of view of the interests of denominational teaching. The result which he would like to see emerge from all the turmoil of these discussions was the equal giving of definite denominational instruction to all denominations in all public elementary schools. From that point of view he should have no difficulty whatever in supporting this Amendment, were it not for the form which Clauses 3 and 4 of this Bill had for the moment assumed. Let the

Committee consider how unsatisfactory would be the religious teaching in the schools as those clauses now stood. He confessed that he was in some doubt as to whether he ought to assist in making attendance compulsory during the time of such teaching. This clause to him seemed to be directed not against denominational but against religious teaching. The schools would be open, the time tables in force, religious teaching would be going forward or would be offered, and under those circumstances he was asked to say that the attendance of the children should be optional. It seemed to him that some of the strongest reasons which might be urged against Clause 6 had very little to do with education, and nothing at all to do with religion. He thought it would be very injurious to the discipline of the school if a lesson given by one of the teachers might or might not be attended by any child as he pleased. The system of elementary education should be as invariable as possible. The school should be opened and closed at fixed hours, and all the children should be compelled to attend between those hours. He was opposed to making any subject in the elementary schools optional; and if they sought for any subject to make optional, religious instruction was the last they should select. To make the best of a bad business, the better solution was that if any parent desired to withdraw his child from religious teaching he should be at liberty to do so under the conscience clause. If he desired to withdraw his child in order that it should have better religious teaching elsewhere, he should be in a position to do so. But unless a parent desired to avail himself of one or the other of those rights religious teaching should be compulsory. He supported the Amendment.

*Mr. ADKINS (Lancashire, Middleton) said he heartily supported Clause 6 as against the Amendment and he hoped it was possible for every member of the Committee to do that without being a traitor to educational efficiency or disregarding the conscientious opinion of other Members. The intention of Clause 6 was to make religious education an optional matter, and that only those children should have it whose parents desired it. The moment they went beyond that obvious principle they were at once involved in using State machinery for the formulation of ideas and for the enforcement of religious principles which were actively opposed or only discontentedly acquiesced in by parents whose children had those lessons. The hon. Member for the Luton Division of Bedfordshire had admitted most candidly that if they had compulsory religious lessons in the school the minority of children who did not take them but who, under the Amendment, would be obliged to have arithmetic or something else of a special character, would be at a great disadvantage. If there was not enough secular education taught in the school, then let them have courage enough to make it more. A child who was taught arithmetic instead of religion would get ahead and put the others to a disadvantage. He thought the proper solution of this difficult question was to allow every parent the opportunity of intimating to the teachers of the school if he wished his children to have religious instruction. If so, then he thought the machinery of the State should be available for that type of religious instruction which did not advance the particular interest of any particular sect or any particular society. Such was Cowper-Templeism dependent upon the actual defined wish of the parent—[A laugh]—and it was so in spite of the irrelevant laugh of the noble Lord who apparently could conceive no kind of religious teaching which did not grind the axe of some special group of people. He himself said it was right and just that the State machinery should be used for undenominational religious teaching where the parent desired it. They did not think it fair that the machinery should be used as a matter of compulsion where the parent did not indicate that he desired it. If they put real compulsion upon children attending school to have Cowper-Temple religion or compulsory arithmetic they were making it more difficult for the child to receive religious instruction in some other place at that hour if the parents wished it. He wished to facilitate that.

Lord ROBERT CECIL: Why should you care about that?

*Mr. ADKINS said he was grateful for that observation. It showed in language the most brief and least courteous the abyss of ignorance in which the noble Lord lived with regard to this question. He cared about it, and the other members of the Committee who supported undenominational religion wished also to give every facility for denominational teaching elsewhere. By voting for the clause they were voting for making religion as it should be, a voluntary matter. He must cordially support the clause as against the Amendment, and he believed if it were ultimately amended so as to give religious instruction to children whose parents cared about it then they would obtain it for all children whose parents desired it, and the teachers of the school would know as far as it was possible what children were intended to be there and what parents desired the assistance of the teachers in giving religious instruction to the children.

Question put.

The Committee divided: —Ayes, 267; Noes, 283. (Division List, No. 177.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood, Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Armitage, R.
Ashley, W. W.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt.Hn.Sir H
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beach, Hn. MichaelHugh Hicks
Beauchamp, E.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brodie, H. C.
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt Hn. Victor C. W.
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm.
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Crean, Eugene
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Davies, David (Montgomery Co
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dickinson, W.H. (St. Pancras, N
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gilhooly, James
Ginnell, L.
Gooch, George Peabody
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R.L. (Caithn'ss-sh
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hart-Davies, T.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helme, Norval Watson
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Hervey, F.W.F. (BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hogan, Michael
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Emslie John
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt.Hon.SirJohn H.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, SirHenrySeymour (Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lamont, Norman
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lee, ArthurH. (Hants., Fareham
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee

Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclean, Donald
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murphy, John
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r)
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson)
Renton, Major Leslie
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Major J. B.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Starkey, John R.
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Tennant, Sir Edw. (Salisbury)
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Ure, Alexander
Valentia, Viscount
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Watt, H. Anderson
Whitbread, Howard
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh, N.)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Walters and Mr. Morrell.

NOES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beaumont, Hubert (Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R
Benn, John Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire)
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J, A.
Brocklehurst, W. D
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Feix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Cross, Alexander
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey

Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W.H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J. M. (FalkirkB'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall(Lincoln)
Marks,G.Croydon(Launceston)
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Nicholls, George
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps,Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps,J.Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price,RobertJohn(Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley,W.E.B.(Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richards, T.F.(Wolverhampt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, Chas.E.(Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(AshtonunderLyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas,DavidAlfred (Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Torrance, A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse,Lord(Norfolk,Mid)
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Dr. Macnamara and Mr. George White.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the Amendment in the name of the hon. Member for Blackpool and that in the name of the hon. Member for Lincoln would practically lead to a re-discussion of the question they had been discussing this afternoon, with the exception of one small part, and therefore they were out of order.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London), upon a point of order, submitted that if the Amendment of the hon. Member for Blackpool† went beyond the purview of the decision of the Committee, the Committee were not precluded from discussing it.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the Committee had practically decided that the operative part of the clause was to stand The operative part of the clause was that the parent of a child attending a public elementary school should not be under any obligation to cause the child to attend at the school house except during the times allotted to secular instruction. That being the case, the class which the hon. Member for Blackpool sought to exempt was already exempted. If he were allowed to discuss his Amendment he would have to do so on the lines that the particular class of parent to whom he alluded should be exempted, while other classes should not be exempted. That would be quite out of order in view of the decision of the Committee. The same observations applied to the other Amendment in the name of the hon. Member for Lincoln on the Paper to the clause.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth) said he desired in the few minutes that were left to the Committee for the consideration of this Bill to enter his protest against this clause because it was a cowardly one, inasmuch as it sought to relieve the Committee of the responsibility of saying that religion should go out of the schools of the country and invited the parents to say it for themselves. On a previous occasion the Committee had decided that religion should remain within the school hours, but by the admission by his right hon. friend the President of the Board of Education what they were now called upon to vote was that religion should be taken out of school hours. It required no courage on the part of the Government to bring the Committee to such a position as this, but it might imply lack of prudence and foresight on the part of the Government to induce the Committee to stultify its own previous decision. Religion in the school was to be treated worse even than it was treated in the House of Commons. He felt strongly on this question, and he believed that this clause was going to place the supporters of the Bill in an impossible position. He urged them to be honest. He would a hundred times sooner have voted for the Amendment of the hon. Member for Burnley, or the Amendment moved by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, because, whatever might be said of those Amendments, they did not put religion as a sort of curtain-raiser before the performance in which everyone was supposed to take an interest. This clause did not keep even the word of promise and it broke it to the hope. It invited the parent to do what the Committee could not do themselves. It might be thought that the people of England would not understand the proceedings of this House, but he thought they would understand unmistakably what the Committee meant by passing a clause of this kind, and the invitation which would thus be written upon the forefront of the Bill. The clause paltered with them in a double sense and menaced their interests.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said the Government had not succeeded in their attempt to follow some of the worst examples set on the Continent of banishing the name of religion from our schools. They had called upon the Committee to settle the question, but the division which had just taken place would not settle it. Could anything be settled by a majority of sixteen? As long as the Government possessed a majority of hundreds they might hope to settle this question one way or another, but they could not do it with the majority which they had just gained. When the news of this debate was read to-morrow, everybody outside this

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†The Amendment standing in the name of the hon. Member for Blackpool was "in Clause 6, page 4, line 9, after the word 'school,' to insert the words 'provided that he is able to satisfy the local education authority that the child is receiving adequate religious instruction elsewhere than at the school.'"

House, at any rate, would agree that the division which had just taken place would not settle the question. Instead of hundreds, the Government had only a majority of sixteen. [Cries of "No, no."] He judged the action and the desire of the Government by the speech of that Member of the Government who was in charge of the Bill. The speech of the Minister for Education this afternoon was as strong a speech in favour of Clause 6 as could be made. It was a strong invitation to the Party spirit of the supporters of the Government. The clause was supported on the whole by the Party of the Government, and if the Government desired to leave it to the free and unfettered decision of the House, why did they ask the Minister in charge of the Bill to deliver the strong and powerful appeal he made? He appealed to the Government to withdraw the clause altogether, and not to allow it to go forth that at this time in the world's history England was about to follow the example of those other countries [Cries of "America"] which were practically abolishing religion and the name of God from their schools. A short time ago the Committee by an overwhelming majority voted that religion should be taught and the name of God heard in our schools. The same issue was now practically before the Committee, and the division which had just taken place showed an extraordinary change. The Amendment had only been defeated by a miserable majority of sixteen in a House of 550 Members, and was the Government going to the country and say, "We have settled this point in the education system for you in a House of 550 Members by a majority of sixteen"? He appealed to the Prime Minister, to the Government, and to the Minister for Education to do what was, after all, the only consistent thing, and to withdraw the clause.

MR. PAUL said he was going to vote against the clause, and he respectfully protested against the speech of the hon. Member for East Clare, because he was grateful to the Government for having allowed hon. Members to vote as they pleased. It could not be honestly said that hon. Gentlemen who voted against the Amendment were voting against the teaching of religion in the schools.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 294; Noes, 247. (Division List No. 178.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Jn. Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beaumont, Hubert (Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, Jn. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (Tow'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs. Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John. T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W J. (S. Pancras, W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Cross, Alexander
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey

Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, R. L. (Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
King, Alfred John (Knutsford
Kitson, Sir James
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester
Lambert, George
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mptn
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Chas. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A H (Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Torrance, A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid
Woodhouse, Sir J. T (Huddersf'd

TELLERS FOR THE AYES,—Dr. Macnamara and Mr. George White.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork,N.E.)
Acland-Hood,RtHn Sir Alex.F
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Armitage, R.
Ashley, W. W.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt Hn A.J.(CityLond.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beach, Hn MichaelHughHicks
Beauchamp, E.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brodie, H. C.
Bryce,RtHn James (Aberdeen)
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Buxton,Rt. Hn. SydneyCharles
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Cleland, J. W.
Coates,E.Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Crean, Eugene
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Davies, David (MontgomeryCo
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dickinson,WH (St.Pancras,N.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duffy, William J.
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Govan
Dunne,Major E Martin(Walsall
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gilhooly, James
Ginnell, L.
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Hervey,F.W.F. (BurySEdm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh)
Hills, J. W.
Hogan, Michael
Hope,W.Bateman (Somerset,N
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Emslie John
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway,Rt. Hn. Sir John H
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt. Hn. Col.W.
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King,SirHenry Seymour (Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lamont, Norman
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lee, ArthurH.(Hants.,Fareham
Lockwood,Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col. A.R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Lynch, H. B.
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maclean, Donald
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, Philip
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murphy, John
Napier, T. B.
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r)
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson,W.H.M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P
Reddy, M.
Redmond,John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renton, Major Leslie
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Major J. B.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith,Abel H. (Hertford.East

Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J.G.(Oxf'd Univ
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Valentia, Viscount
Villiers, Ernest Amherst
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W.H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walters, John Tudor
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Watt, H. Anderson
Whitbread, Howard
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Lord Robert Cecil and Mr. F. E. Smith.

And, it being after eleven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again to-morrow.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDER (No. 10) BILL (BY ORDER.)

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. C. E. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.) said that he wished to move as an Amendment that this Bill be read a second time three months hence. He, and those who agreed with him, felt it their duty to oppose this particular Bill because they believed that that course was in the interest of the Corporation of Manchester and would be also for the advantage of the ship canal. He admitted that the Manchester Corporation at one time was in favour of this Bill, but the Finance Committee of the Corporation had since reported against it. He was glad that a change had taken place in the position of the Corporation of the City of Manchester in consequence of its having been felt that enough consideration had not been given for the damage which might be done to the Manchester Ship Canal by the Bill. Some people might ask what had the Manchester Ship Canal to do with this Bill, but he might point out that when that canal was first projected it was calculated that it would cost about £8,000,000 sterling, but when the work had got on to a considerable extent it was found that another £5,000,000 would be required. That money was not to be found in the open market and the Corporation of Manchester found it by the permission of this House. Another £1,000,000 was by the permission of the House similarly invested, so that altogether the Corporation of Manchester had invested £6,000,000 in the Manchester Ship Canal. The Manchester Corporation considered that the carrying of this Bill would seriously damage their interests, because, as the House was well aware, the whole question of shipping was a very delicate one, and if any port suffered from more inspection than other ports it was sufficient to cause shippers and shipowners to send ships to other ports. The powers given to the port sanitary authority would put Manchester in a different position from that which existed at present in other ports. The corporation had a power of inspection throughout the city, and if a greater power of inspection was granted than prevailed in other ports, it would do great damage to the ship canal. [Cries of "Why?"] If special powers of inspection were given to the port sanitary authority on the quays, it would do great damage to the ship canal. The same powers would not be given in regard to other ports, and the present powers of inspection at Manchester were ample. He did not see why an exceptional course should be taken in regard to Manchester and Liverpool with reference to inspection when their present system was sufficiently rigid to exclude the importation of bad meat from Chicago or anywhere else. Glasgow was not to be subjected to the conditions which were proposed with regard to Liverpool and Manchester, in which places the best possible course was taken to preserve good hygienic conditions. He maintained that Manchester did its duty in the matter of meat inspection, and he thought it would be impracticable to inspect cargoes in the ports and on the docks. It would lead to delay and large claims for demurrage. If any change was to be made it ought to be made in all the ports of the kingdom. It might be said that this was a question of the rich against the poor and that the owners of the ship canal, as long as they got their dividends, did not wish to have inspection in their docks. All he could say, if that was the line of argument, was that it was no great catch to hold canal shares at present, although he was glad to say the prospects of the ordinary shares paying a dividend were improving. Only 10 per cent. of the food stuffs used in Lancashire was introduced by way of the Manchester Ship Canal. Eighty per cent. or 90 per cent. was landed at Liverpool, and if any restriction was to be put in force it should commence at any rate at Liverpool. Therefore if there was to be any reform in this matter they would insist upon a general measure being passed by the Government, in which case they would endeavour to improve it when it came before them. In the meanwhile he hoped all who took an interest in the Manchester Ship Canal and who thought that the canal should obtain a fair share of these shipments from other countries would join with him and support him in the division that would take place almost immediately.

*MR. KELLEY (Manchester, S.W.), in seconding the Motion, said that the Bill would inflict a great injustice upon Manchester. He did not think he would be out of order in moving the rejection of this measure when they had regard to the struggle they had to make the canal, to obtain the money to make it, and the struggles they had had since to encourage its use by shippers. He did not think there was any man who had had more to do with the working classes in connection with this canal and who had induced more men to take up shares in the ship canal than himself. He had a small holding of shares in it, but though a shareholder he was not influenced by that fact to-night. They had had a good many struggles to make the canal a success, and now that they were just beginning to make some headway somebody got the Chicago meat scare fever and no doubt unwittingly were trying to injure them. In confirming this provisional order they would inflict a great injustice on Manchester. They simply asked that the same treatment should be given to Manchester as to other ports of the United Kingdom. They did not quarrel with the idea of a closer inspection, they quite approved it, but they said that if closer inspection were needed it should be applied to the whole of the ports of the Kingdom and not to Manchester alone. He therefore seconded the rejection of the Bill.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day three months.'"—(*Mr. C. E. Schwann.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea) said he felt some degree of confidence that the House of Commons would pass the Second Reading of this Bill and would send it upstairs to the proper tribunal, where the questions raised by the two previous speakers would be adequately discussed. Let him give briefly the history of this provisional order, which did not emanate from the Local Government Board, but was conceived in Manchester. It was mothered by Manchester and fifteen other local authorities. It was deposited on the steps of the Local Government Board, and he now asked the House of Commons to send it upstairs, where the infant could be properly examined. The bare facts were these. The Manchester Port Sanitary Authority, of the which Manchester City Corporation was the predominant partner, came for a provisional order, asking that there should be vested in them certain powers and duties of a sanitary authority under the Public Health Acts relating to the inspection of food. The Local Government Board received the letter from the Manchester Port Sanitary Authority on September 27th, 1905, stating that they had had before them the question of unsound food being conveyed within their district by means of ships coming to the Port of Manchester, and that they asked in consequence that the Local Government Board should give them this provisional order. The Local Government Board sent an official down to the district to hold a public inquiry. There was practically no opposition. The Manchester Corporation concurred as would be seen, by the following letter written in October—

> "The Corporation of Manchester understand that an application has been made to the Local Government Board by the Manchester port sanitary authority for powers to seize unsound articles intended for the food of man either on board ship or before they are removed from the docks. The sanitary authority of the Manchester Corporation have had the matter under consideration, and as they are convinced that the proposal is in the public interest they heartily support the application of the Manchester port sanitary authority, and trust that it will receive favourable consideration on the part of the Local Government Board."

The public inquiry was held by an officer from the Local Government Board, and no objection was raised by the City of Manchester. The First Reading of the Bill took place on May 25th, and between then and now nothing had transpired except, perhaps, the Chicago meat scandals; but he ventured to say that nothing that could be deduced therefrom was a reason why additional powers of inspection should not be given. Recently Manchester had put forward the following reason for varying its original request. Since the inquiry the directors of the Manchester Ship Canal said they had overlooked the notice of the public inquiry, and as Liverpool Port Sanitary Authority did not possess powers, ships coming to Manchester would be liable to interference not prevailing at Liverpool. Hence Manchester would be placed at a disadvantage compared with Liverpool in competing for the importation of food products. This opinion, however, was not practically sustained by the facts. Liverpool Town Council, who were the port sanitary authority of Liverpool, did exercise these powers, but not so much in the port as in the city. Last year Liverpool rejected 400 tons of rotten canned meat from the United States. Every day Liverpool was doing its duty under precisely the same powers, duties, and obligations to the public health as Manchester was content to ask for from the Local Government Board, and which he sincerely trusted the House of Commons would see that Manchester had in the passing of this particular Bill. The sixteen authorities that made up the Manchester port sanitary authority said truly that one port sanitary authority on the Manchester Ship Canal could more cheaply, more efficiently, and more impartially inspect the meat at a given place on the Manchester Ship Canal than could fifteen or sixteen sanitary authorities attempting to do the same work here, there, and everywhere. Now this particular power was exercised by the London Port Sanitary Authority,and they were only asking the House of Commons to give to the Manchester Port Sanitary Authority the powers possessed by each of the sixteen constituent authorities that made up the Port Sanitary Authority of Manchester—Manchester with these other bodies took the initiative in demanding these powers, and he saw no reason why the matter should not go forward as originally intended. He did not ask the House to judge as between Manchester Members and himself, but that the proposal should go upstairs to a Committee before which Manchester would have a fairer opportunity of stating its case than it could at that time of the night in a House imperfectly equipped for coming to a proper decision. Might he put it to the Manchester Members that it would seriously damage Manchester as a port and as a sanitary authority if it were assumed, as it might be if this Provisional Order Bill were not carried to-night, that Manchester wanted to be lenient toward foreign tinned meat coming into its port, whilst a general law was enforced by the London, Liverpool, Hull, Grimsby, and other English ports? In this matter he asked for equal rights for all white men, whether they came from Chicago or Great Britain, and he did not see why Chicago or American tinned meat coming via Manchester Ship Canal should be treated any more leniently than live pork from Limerick, or Scottish beef from Scotland, or mutton and beef from Yorkshire, Derbyshire, and elsewhere. It was absolutely necessary to give the Manchester Port Sanitary Authority the power to reject unsound meat. Manchester's original request was a wise one, for it found a difficulty in preventing unsound meat from coming into the Manchester Ship Canal. If Manchester had a rivalry with Liverpool, the best way to meet it was for Liverpool and Manchester to be on equal terms, as this Provisional Order would put them. He asked the House to send the Bill upstairs and enable the people of this country to be protected from the foreign importer of bad meat, and not give him privileges which were not accorded to the home producer.

*MR. SCOTT (Ashton-under-Lyne) said that after the speech of the President of the Local Government Board, the House might think that a representative of Manchester would hardly have the audacity to rise at that time of night, but Manchester Members were not responsible for detaining the House at that hour. The responsibility rested with the President of the Local Government Board for bringing on the measure after eleven o'clock at night when he knew that every representative of Manchester was opposed to the Order. He was a member of the Manchester City Council, which was a corporation, (as all interested in municipal administration well knew), with the interests of the people of Manchester at heart, and in this respect one of the most forward corporations in the country. They had presented to this House an unanimous petition signed by the Lord Mayor, and bearing the seal of the Manchester Corporation. The right hon. Gentleman asked why should they make any difference between Manchester and Liverpool. He would tell the right hon. Gentleman that if he would make the conditions the same in Manchester and Liverpool, every Manchester Member would at once withdraw his opposition. Was that a fair offer? The right hon. Gentleman knew well enough that the conditions would not be the same under this Order. If he had brought in a Bill to prevent canned meat from landing at any British port, he would have found no more loyal supporters than the men who had been returned from Manchester and those associated with that town. It had been said that Manchester had changed its mind. Manchester had a right to change its mind, and no one recognised that better than the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the City of London. Manchester had changed its mind for the selfsame reason that the right hon. Gentleman had changed his mind on the unemployed question, namely, that it had got facts and information which it had not when it lent its name to the first application. This was a Government measure, and he wanted to know why it should be hurried through the House. A circular sent out by the port sanitary authority was signed by William Huddart, who was recognised as the greatest opponent of amalgamation between Manchester and Salford. Salford had taken Manchester Corporation into court to get an increased rate, and yet the ship canal had been the making of Salford. It was true that the ship canal traffic did not yield a dividend, but it should be remembered that when the trade of Manchester was declining it wanted no protection remedies. It wanted access to the world, and, having built the ship canal at great sacrifice, freights into Manchester had been lowered to the extent of £1,000,000 a year. Manchester only asked for freedom. It did not ask for special treatment, or for freedom to import bad food. [Cries of "Agreed."] Oh, no; they were not agreed. Here were the conditions of sale which existed in Liverpool at the present time. There was a classification of food as "sound" "slack" and "slightly wet." There was also "wastage." What did that classification mean? Everything containing less than two per cent. of waste was "sound"; less than 5 per cent. "seconds"; less than 10 per cent. "thirds." Less than 20 per cent. was "X"; and 50 per cent. "double X." After that they were "wastage." But still "wastage" had a value, and could be bought on the Liverpool market. they in Manchester did not desire that these meats should be unloaded from boats in Manchester; and therefore they were being brought into Manchester by rail. The unfairness of the Provisional Order was to place the port of Manchester in an unfair position as compared with Liverpool. All he asked was that Manchester should compete fairly with other ports.

*MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) said he did not propose to inflict a speech on the House, but it appeared to him, in the words of the last speaker, that the House was slightly wet. [Cries of "Oh, oh" and "withdraw."] His hon. friends had taken an extraordinary way of reasoning with the House in their appeal for the rejection of this Bill. If he understood the position correctly, the Manchester Corporation practically introduced this Bill themselves but they had suddenly changed their minds. The hon. Member who spoke last had said with truth that they had a perfect right to change their minds, but he wanted to know what occult influence had been at work to induce them to change their mind. Did it come from Chicago? He wished to lay down the general proposition that if the system of inspection was to be imposed on other ports, then it was time that they began with Manchester. He would like to point out to the House—because he was in the native meat trade himself—that there was a more rigid inspection of all native meat than of importations of meat, live or dead, or frozen or chilled, or in tins. He thought that this House should give the same equality of opportunity and protection to the native producers of these isles who paid rent, rates, and taxes, as they did to the foreigner. He therefore supported the Bill, and he hoped the House by an overwhelming majority would defeat the Motion for rejection. There was no reason why this Bill should not go to a Committee upstairs.

*MR. BYLES (Salford, N.) said that he thought that Salford as well as Manchester was entitled to have something to say in this matter. The terminus of the Manchester Ship Canal, and its docks were in Salford, and what they wanted there was cleanly and wholesome food. For that reason the borough which he represented desired that this Bill should be supported by its representatives. The Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee of the Salford Corporation had succeeded in bringing the death-rate down considerably, and one of the means by which he hoped to get it still lower was to get meat coming into the borough inspected.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said that although that evening it seemed to be regarded as an unfortunate thing to say anything in favour of Manchester he proposed to take that course. Before the date of provisional orders private promoters always had a right to withdraw a Bill at any moment, and he did not think that right was affected by the fact that the Local Government Board now promoted provisional orders on behalf of public bodies. Supposing a Corporation were minded to buy the local gas works and then afterwards found they did not want to do so, was their original Bill to be crammed down their throats in the manner in which it was sought to thrust this Bill down the throats of the Manchester Corporation. The Chicago meat scandals had been referred to, but there was a great deal of humbug about them. Men's fingers were dearer than beef, and he believed the alleged scandals were part of a Presidential campaign. But for this Chicago meat scandal the Local Government Board would have yielded to that plea of Manchester. Manchester had always been a supporter of Ireland, and for that if for no other reason he supported the action of the hon. Members from that city.

*MR. HAWORTH (Manchester, S.) said it was unsatisfactory to a loyal supporter of the Government even to appear to be opposed to them. He thought it was hardly worthy of the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board to bring in the question of Chicago tinned meats, because this matter was in hand before the revelations with regard to Chicago. As to the fact that Manchester changed her mind, that City wanted as good an inspection of food as any other place, but when she found that if this Bill were passed Manchester would be placed in an invidious position in regard to various other ports, she changed her position. If these powers were given to the port sanitary authority the House would be simply duplicating them. If they were duplicated for one city they ought to be duplicated for others. They wanted to confirm and not to oppose this Order, but they also wanted to make it effective. It had been already pointed out that only 10 per cent. of the foodstuffs consumed in the district entered through the port of Manchester and that 90 per cent. came in from the ports of Liverpool, Hull, and Bristol. They had no objection to this measure going through on an equality and then it would be an effective Order; whereas if it went through in its present shape the whole thing would be uneffective.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS (Mr. EMMOTT, Oldham) said he had listened very carefully to this debate in order to see whether the arguments on both sides would lead him to a conclusion as to whether it was a matter of principle that ought to be settled on a Second Reading or whether this was a Bill that ought to go to a Committee upstairs. His conviction was very strong that it should be sent upstairs. The point made by the hon. and learned Member for North Louth that the President of the Local Government Board had done something unusual in his action with regard to this measure, did not, he thought, apply. He did not think the House was in a position to judge of the merits of this case. In the first place, they had heard of the change of opinion on the part of Manchester. He did not know the reason of that change but that was a matter that could be better investigated in Committee, and was a matter the House was not in a position to discuss. Then they were told that there were sixteen sanitary authorities affected, but that statement was denied by an hon. Member who said there were only three. They also heard of the conditions of Liverpool being equally strict, yet other Members said that Liverpool had an advantage. All these were surely matters which could be dealt with and settled much better upstairs, and therefore he hoped the House would send this Bill upstairs. The matters in dispute were of a character which could be better settled in Committee than in the House.

*MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe) said he opposed this Provisional Order. One hon. Member said he supported the Order for the sake of the poor of Salford, and if he had thought that was more important than anything else he should have supported the hon. Member. But the hon. Gentleman forgot that only one-tenth of the foodstuffs consumed in Lancashire came through the Manchester Ship Canal, and that if this Order were passed it would not prevent foodstuffs coming in *via* Liverpool. He quite admitted that the Manchester and Salford authorities had made a mistake in making this appeal. But this was a Lancashire question. The Manchester Ship Canal was a Lancashire canal and Lancashire had suffered for it, though he admitted they had also received benefits from it. They desired to see it prosper and they were not going to stand idly by and see restrictions put upon the canal which were not put upon other ports. There was no contesting the fact that the same thing was going on in Stretford, Salford, and Manchester as was going in Bristol, Birkenhead and Liverpool, and it was not fair to press a proposal against the wishes of those who instigated it in the first instance, but who had changed their minds as soon as they ascertained the facts. If this had been an ordinary Bill nothing more would have been heard of it. It would have been dropped. But because it was in the power of the Government they pressed it. Nothing would have been heard of it but for this scare. He objected to its going upstairs. Let the House settle it now. What would be the position if it went upstairs? They would be prejudiced when it came down because they would be told they must support the decision of the Committee. He wanted to impress on the right hon. Gentleman that he quite agreed with him and would do all he could to assist him to protect this country from the importation of bad meat. But he thought the right hon. Gentleman in this case had taken a wrong course and had not gone the right way to effect that purpose. Therefore he hoped he would drop this Provisional Order and bring in a general Bill to deal with all ports alike.

MR. HORRIDGE (Manchester, E.) said the provisions of the Bill ought to be in a general Bill applying to all ports. This Order suggested that Section 116 of the Public Health Act should be applied by the port sanitary authority That section gave to the Corporation power to inspect food which was prepared or exposed for sale. It had nothing to do with cargoes of ships but was intended to deal with food in markets or shops, and by this Provisional Order it was sought to apply the section to cargoes of ships. The section said that anyone exposing unsound food for sale should be liable to a penalty of £20 or to imprisonment for twelve months. Was it seriously intended that the Manchester Ship Canal directors were to be liable to that punishment if any piece of unsound food were landed at the quay? He did not believe the President of the Local Government Board had appreciated that at all. What the right hon. Gentleman ought to do was to bring in a Bill to deal with the power of inspection at all ports instead of applying a section of an Act, intended to be applied to shops and markets, to the great Manchester Ship Canal. Manchester at the present moment was in exactly the same position as Liverpool as a port sanitary authority, and the right hon. Gentleman must know that this Order would not put Manchester in the same position as Liverpool. It was hard enought now to get shipowners to bring their cargoes up to Manchester. If the right hon. Gentleman put this handicap upon the trade of Manchester by saying there should be this double inspection and this worrying of the shipowners when the Corporation had already its meat inspectors, it would drive shipowners away from Manchester altogether. It was not only an unfair proposal but it was stupid and unworkable. It was not a question to send to a Committee upstairs, but for this House to deal with in a general measure. He did not want it to be said that the Members for Manchester or the Corporation shrank from any inspection of food; but this was an improper inspection and put an unfair handicap upon Manchester. The Government ought to deal in a Bill with an important question such as that raised about canned meat.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 202; Noes, 116. (Division List No. 179.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, A. Acland(Christchurch)
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Armitage, R.
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. (Harmood-
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert(Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn,JohnWilliams(Devonp'rt
Benn,W.(T'w'rHamlets, S. Geo
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Billson, Alfred
Black, ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)
Brace, William
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce,Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen)
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Buxton,Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(SPancras,W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Courthope, G. Loyd
Cowan, W. H.
Crean, Eugene
Dalrymple, Viscount
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dickinson,W.H.(St.Pancras,N.
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne,MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Emmott, Alfred
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Halpin, J.
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hobart, Sir Robert
Horniman, Emslie John
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael

Mr. Horridge.

Kitson, Sir James
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Crae, George
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Menzies, Walter
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton)
Pollard, Dr.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Robinson, S.
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton
Spicer, Albert
Starkey, John R.
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Vivian, Henry
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, A. Stanley (York., E. R.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boland, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Burke, E. Haviland-
Cairns, Thomas
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clynes, J. R.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex E. Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Gulland, John W.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hazelton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharp
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jowett, F. W.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Killop, W.
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Meagher, Michael
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morton, Alphous Cleophas
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncaster
Nolan, Joseph
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon N.
O'Malley, William
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Richards, T A F (Wolverhampt'n
Ridsdale E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seddon, J.

Shackleton, David James
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smyth, Thos. F. (Leitrim, S.)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomasson, Franklin
Walsh, Stephen
Wardle, George J.
Watt, H. Anderson
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Wilkie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Charles Schwann and Mr. Kelley.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

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INTERMEDIATE BOARD (RULES).

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.) moved an Address to His Majesty praying that the Rules of the Intermediate Board for the year 1907 be disapproved of, and that other Rules be substituted in conformity with the Resolution of the House on 21st May last. † He said this was an exceedingly important Motion which deserved the serious attention of hon. Members who had any regard for the powers of this House. It would be remembered that on 21st May last a Resolution was carried unanimously demanding that the Intermediate Board of Ireland should alter the rules which they first published. The Motion which was then carried had been on paper for a week. The Board refused, however, to adopt the changes which he then suggested, namely, that better facilities should be given for the teaching of the Irish language in the Intermediate Board's programme. Their refusal to grant this demand was based upon the grounds that they were of opinion that for intermediate students the study of French and German was of far greater educational advantage and practical value. That was the reason they then urged for not accepting the suggestions. Some time afterwards they were again asked whether they had decided to adopt the resolution of the House, and the second excuse they made was that they were unable to make the changes because if they did the Rules could not be laid on the Table forty days before the House rose, and consequently there would be no intermediate programme and nothing for the students to go on with. Neither of these excuses was sincere. The only reason why the Board had not done what the House had asked them to do was that they felt that the Irish language was getting better placed in the programme through the action of the House than they were determined it should be. He would ask the Chief Secretary to give them some assurance that they were going to obey the decision of the House. The Board had declared that they were not going to be intimidated by the Gaelic League and that was the kernel of their refusal to adopt the suggestions contained in the Resolution. He would like to ask whether there was any precedent for the condition of affairs in which they found themselves tonight. By the unanimous resolution of this House certain suggestions were made, and without any apology whatsoever the Intermediate Board, one of the forty by which this country governed Ireland, said "No, we spurn, we reject with contempt the unanimous vote of the House of Commons." If the House now voted against the Address to His Majesty it would stultify itself, and say it was powerless when one of these Irish boards came in opposition to it. The Chief Secretary, when the Resolution of 21st May was discussed, said he was hopeful that there would be no difficulty in carrying out the changes which were then suggested. He had sent to the right hon. Gentleman a few circulars showing what the Board did on previous occasions. In September, 1905, when the House was not sitting, and when the school year had begun the Intermediate Board changed their programme. On May 21st when his Motion was brought forward, the Board refused to adopt alterations which were not nearly so radical or so difficult as had been proposed to be brought into operation in the previous October. He maintained that this was one of the old boards, one of the remnants of the old garrison which had destroyed their country and deprived their children of education, which education it still refused to give when it was afraid its days were numbered.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clvii., 1072.

MR. JOHN REDMOND Waterford), in seconding the Motion, said that he rose for the purpose of pressing on the House of Commons the extraordinary character of this Board. Certain boards in Ireland did their work very well, because they were responsible to this House through Ministers who had to answer for their action; but this was a very different kind of board. Not only was it not responsible to the public opinion of Ireland or England, or even this House, but it was absolutely independent, and there was no means of bringing it to book, unless the Chief Secretary were to dismiss it altogether or unless this House were to refuse funds to carry on education in Ireland. Was not that an extraordinary illustration of the system by which the Government of Ireland was carried on? It would not be tolerated in any other country in the world. For instance, what happened the other day? Under the Statute the rules for carrying on intermediate education in Ireland had to be laid on the Table of the House of Commons for forty days, in order that the House might choose to refuse or sanction those rules. The House of Commons decided that those rules should be altered. He asked the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary whether it was true that this Board had passed a resolution immediately after the Resolution adopted by the House of Commons absolutely refusing to carry out the directions of this House? He thought the House of Commons was entitled to ask the Chief Secretary, who was not responsible in this matter, whether it was a fact that this Board had decided to reject the decision of the House of Commons and despised it? Further, he thought the minutes of the Board should be published, together with the names of the gentlemen who overthrew the decision of the House of Commons. The House of Commons was entitled to a frank answer on this matter. He believed that the Board had taken up the attitude that it was too late to carry out the Resolution of the House of Commons in time for the examinations for next year. He had received a communication from Monsignor Molloy, which he was empowered to quote, that that right rev. gentleman personally approved of the changes which the House of Commons had made, and that, from his long experience in the working of the Board, in his judgment there would have been no difficulty, with the time at their disposal, in carrying out the changes authorised by the Resolution of the House of Commons. He acknowledged that the Chief Secretary's task in Ireland was difficult; but the only chance the right hon. Gentleman had of successful administration was not to permit himself to be bullied by these boards; and if they insisted on ignoring the Resolution passed by the House of Commons he should instantly dismiss them and appoint another body in their place. The effect of that would not only be beneficial on the Intermediate Education Board, but on all the other boards in Ireland.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Rules of the Intermediate Board for the year 1907, sealed the 19th day of June, be disapproved of."—(*Mr. Thomas O'Donnell.*)

MR. JAMES CAMPBELL (Dublin University) said that at the outset he begged to say that he entirely sympathised with and supported the strong appeal made by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford to the Chief Secretary that the minutes of the Intermediate Education Board should be made public. He would, however, remind the House as to how this matter had arrived at its present stage. The Board was the creation of this House. It consisted of twelve members, including the present Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin, Father Finlay and Monsignor Molloy; and when the rules came before the House on May 23rd last, the Chief Secretary who threw them over forgot that they had received the approval and signature of the Lord-Lieutenant, who was the chief of the Irish Government. The Chief Secretary voted in favour of the Resolution of the hon. Member for Kerry on May 23rd which was an unprecedented action on the part of the

Chief Secretary. He was sure that the right hon. Gentleman on that occasion made a great mistake in throwing over with a light heart the rules which had been ratified by the Lord-Lieutenant. The hon. Member for Waterford said the House of Commons decided by a certain vote a certain thing, and that the Board had defied the action of the House, and from the information he had received the Board had passed a resolution not to comply with the decision of the House. He had understood the right hon. Gentleman to say on June 20th† that the Board had not refused to carry out the decision of the House of Commons.

Mr. BRYCE said that was perfectly true.

Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL was ready to accept the accuracy of the right hon. Gentleman's statement, but he thought in justice to the Board the right hon. Gentleman ought to lay the resolution of the Board on the Table of the House.

Mr. BRYCE: I never refused. What I said was that there was a correspondence going on, and that, at that time, I could not do so.

Mr. JAMES CAMPBELL said the Board wished the minutes to be submitted, and the time was surely come when the Chief Secretary should do what was asked by everyone interested. He thought the right hon. Gentleman had got himself into a difficult position in this matter, but the exact position should be known to Members of that House. The Resolution of the hon. Member for Kerry was brought up and passed by this House in the ignorance of most of the Members that these rules had already received the consent of the Lord-Lieutenant and of the Irish Executive. He could only agree and sympathise with the demand that had been made on the right. hon. Gentleman.

Mr. BRYCE said he was sorry that he would have to detain the House rather longer than he intended. The matter was very simple, but so much extraneous matter had been introduced, particularly by the hon. Member for the Dublin University, that he was obliged to give the House the facts of the case. This House passed a Resolution on the May 21st last expressing dissent from many points in these rules. He did not dissent from them all. He expressed an opinion on one of them. The Motion was made by the hon. Member for West Kerry, and he then gave the House all the details that the Board had given to him, and no statement could be more inaccurate than the statement just made by the hon. Member for the Dublin University when he said that he (Mr. Bryce) had not defended the Board by giving this statement to the House. The rules had received the formal sanction of the Board itself. It was a purely formal sanction, and was not accompanied by any suggestion as to the facts that influenced its decision in changing the rules. There was nothing to call the attention to the Lord-Lieutenant to the fact that this was likely to become the subject of controversy. There had been cases where similar sanction had been given by a department to rules and schemes where the Government of the day after the rules had been brought up had refused to alter them. Those were English precedents which amply justified him in the action he took when he made his statement to the House. On this matter he was careful to guard himself from answering the question as to what the Board had done, and merely stated the case which was put to him by the Board that they were not then declining to comply with the Resolution of the House. He did that in order to give them an opportunity to retreat from what he held to be an untenable position. He said it was impossible to make a full statement, because correspondence was passing between the Government and the Board and that it would be impossible to quote letters or give the effect of the communications until the whole of the letters were given and the whole matter was put before the House. Everything he said was literally and actually true, and he conceived it would be an injury to the Board to go beyond what he said. He had no objection to produce the correspondence, but the minutes of the Board were not under his control.

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† See col. 178, *et seq.*

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Will the right hon. Gentleman ask the Board for them?

MR. BRYCE said certainly. If the Board chose to send in their minutes he had no objection to produce them. It was, however, an unusual course, and he hoped it would not be taken as a precedent. He had no objection to ask the Board for the minutes, but he would not press for them. As to the singular system under which the Board administered education, he might say it was not the fault of the Board but of legislation in this House. As the matter stood at present it was inevitable that the House should refuse the Motion of the hon. Member, but that was not due to the merits of the rules but to the position in which they found themselves. He had no power whatever over this Board.

MR. FIELD: Why not evict them?

MR. BRYCE: And this was purely a matter of time. On May 21st the House disapproved of these rules and the effect of the disapproval was not, he thought, what hon. Members opposite intended. Its effect was to extinguish them.

MR. JAMES CAMPBELL: Was not that all the House could do?

MR. BRYCE: The Government advised the Intermediate Board that the effect of the Resolution was to extinguish the rules altogether. The Board declined to alter its rules in any way, but when the effect of the Resolution was intimated to them the Board reconsidered their position and proceeded to consider two alternatives. One was to formulate a new set of Rules in accordance with the Resolution of the House. That course they appeared to have dismissed because of the lack of time at their disposal. The hon. and learned Member for Waterford said that he was told by a member of the Board that it could be easily done. That, at any rate, was not a view in which the Board as a whole could concur. He certainly thought the question was more complicated than the hon. and learned Member was disposed to believe, and that there were real difficulties in making a new scheme which, while affording a satisfactory plan for intermediate education, would comply with the decision of this House. These difficulties, however, he hoped might be surmounted. The Board arrived at the conclusion that they could not amend their rules in the time allowed, and they came to the further conclusion that the only course possible for them was to submit the old rules framed in 1905, and which had been in operation during the present year. They said that after all those rules had been approved by the House, and therefore at any rate there could be no great objection to them That course accordingly was taken and was communicated to the Lord Lieutenant, who, in giving his sanction, of course expressed no opinions whatever as to the intrinsic merits of these rules, and he was perfectly free for the future as to any action that might be taken. He would tell the House exactly how the matter stood. It was necessary for the purpose of Intermediate Examinations that there should be rules which it was certain would be in force by the beginning of August. That was the latest time at which these schools could begin to prepare for the examinations of 1907. It was also necessary that the rules should lie for forty days upon the Table of this House. In other words, the rules had to be submitted by the end of June if they were to be in force by the month of August; otherwise the whole machinery of intermediate education would come to a dead stop. Under these circumstances there was no course open to the Lord-Lieutenant but to accept the rules. The matter would have to come up again and the House would have ample opportunity of considering the whole matter, which was not prejudiced in any way by the action which they were asked to take to-night. In the interests of the teachers and pupils the hon. Member would be very ill advised if he stopped the machinery and deprived them of their fees and opportunities.

MR. DILLON said the Intermediate Education Board of Ireland, who were appointed by the British Government, had set the Minister of the Government at defiance. After delaying the matter for five weeks, the Board took a course which absolutely defied the will of the House of Commons, and deliberately abstained from putting forward the old rules until it was too late for the House of Commons to alter them. They held a sword over the heads of Members of this House by threatening to paralyse the whole system of intermediate education in Ireland if they dared to interfere. It might be imagined from the remarks of the Chief Secretary that the Board had yielded in some way to the House of Commons. They had deliberately delayed the matter until it was too late to make any alterations in either the new or the old rules, and then they put forward the old rules which were far worse than those to which objection was taken in certain particulars by the House on the last occasion. That was the way in which this intelligent Irish Board proposed to carry out the will of the House of Commons! The right hon. Gentleman was surprised that the matter should have got into the Irish newspapers. Within five days after the House of Commons passed the Resolution there appeared in the *Irish Times* of Dublin a most insolent article, written by one of the members of the Board, in which the whole of the information which the right hon. Gentleman had been refusing to give the House of Commons was disclosed, accompanied by every form of insult, in which the right hon. Gentleman was told that he would soon find out that he had tackled a body which would not tolerate his dictation or that of the House of Commons. The Board had triumphed so far and had persisted in their defiance. They had performed a flank movement, defeated the Chief Secretary, and made fools of the House of Commons at whom they were now laughing. Their threat that unless the House of Commons swallowed the rules they would paralyse the whole intermediate education of Ireland was simply a piece of bluff, and he trusted the House would not sit down tamely under it. Last year, when the House of Commons had adjourned, there were three alterations at least as important as those made on the rules, and they were never tabled at all. Nevertheless the whole system of examinations was carried on last winter. By voting for the Resolution they would not be voting against the Chief Secretary in any way, but would be vindicating the right hon. Gentleman against the grossest piece of insolence on the part of this Board.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said he was present when the Amendments were made, and he had doubts in his mind at the time as to whether the right hon. Gentleman ought not to have asked for time to consider the matter. But now that the thing was done he would be no party to allowing this Board to dictate to the House. He knew the Board, and if the House took this matter lying down it would have to take a great deal more. If his hon. friends went to a division he should certainly vote against the Board.

MR. GORDON (Londonderry, S.) said it was hardly reasonable that there should be a deliberate attack made upon a highly honourable body of men who were appointed to do a particular work. They were men of the highest standing and character. The Chief Secretary himself had admitted that this matter was not one which could be dealt with at once, but that there were great difficulties in the way. Before accepting any alterations in the rules, the right hon. Gentleman would have been wise to have ascertained whether it was possible to give effect to the alterations or not. The Board had done the only thing that was open to them, and that was to take up the rules which had been approved by the Lord-Lieutenant. These were the rules which were to be in operation for next year, and it would be most unfortunate, no matter who had blundered when the Resolution of 21st May was passed, if they were to be altered now. The Motion should be negatived in order that the work of the Intermediate Board should not be brought to a stand still.

MR. MORTON (Sutherlandshire) said it could not be doubted that the Intermediate Board had delayed dealing with the suggestions until it could be pleaded that there was not the necessary time to include them in the programme for this year. After the disclosures which had been made to-night it appeared that what was called government in Ireland, even in the hands of a Liberal Government, was a travesty of good government. He was not surprised that the representatives of Ireland should ask for Home Rule.

MR. T. M. HEALY said an attempt had been made to throw blame on the Chief Secretary. Whoever was to blame, it was not the right hon. Gentleman. If there was blame in the matter it must be shared by every Irish Member. What interest had the right hon. Gentleman in getting Liberal Members to vote for maintaining these rules? There were a number of friendly Englishmen below the Gangway who would be only too happy to join the Irish Members in expressing their detestation on this matter. Let the right hon. Gentleman remember that those gentlemen in Dublin Castle had no more regard for him than they had for the door porter outside. Their one idea would be all through the right hon. Gentleman's *regimé* at every step he took to trip him up, to thwart him, and to baffle him. By the strong pressure which he was at present putting on his supporters he was giving these men a triumph over the Irish representatives, and, what was more, a triumph over himself. He fully appreciated the point that if the rules were disapproved of again these men would take the bit between their teeth and refuse any rules by which money could be taken. They would thereby inflict a grievous wrong on every school and college in Ireland, and their names would stink in the nostrils of the people. Was not that a consummation which the right hon. Gentleman desired as strongly as the Irish Members? A better lesson could not be taught to young Irishmen as to the way in which their country was governed than to show them, when they had been grinding up for examinations for twelve months, that they would be deprived of their just reward by the action of this Board. He asked that the Government should in this matter leave the responsibility with the Irish Members. They would take the responsibility.

MR. DODD (Tyrone, N.) said that if the House passed the Motion as it stood they would merely be repeating the declaration which they made on May 21st. The ruling by which the Motion had

had to be put in its present form seemed to suggest that any alterations in the rules were not competent. The Chief Secretary, in asking the House not to pass this Motion, expressed the hope that alterations might be made in the rules. If alterations could not competently be made, he should like to know from the Chief Secretary how he suggested that alterations might be made. The House of Commons presumably had power over these rules, or else they would not be laid on the Table.

MR. BRYCE said that if those rules were included in the Amendment of the hon. Member for Kerry no pupils would have been able to get their exhibitions this year. [NATIONALIST cries of "No."] He had been instructed that that was so. He could assure his hon. friend that the Lord-Lieutenant had power to deal with any rules sent up to him by the Intermediate Education Board, that they would be carefully considered, and that every attempt would be made to comply with the Resolution of the House of Commons.

MR. DODD said that the eminent judges and distinguished men who were on the Intermediate Board insisted on obedience to their orders and they ought to have complied with the wishes of the House of Commons.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) believed the Chief Secretary was mistaken. The Board had time enough to deal with the matter. The Irish Members who had children in the schools would take the responsibility, if this Motion were acceded to, and he hoped the House would teach the Board a much-needed lesson.

Mr. Dodd.

MR. DILLON again appealed to the Chief Secretary to leave this matter to the House of Commons.

MR. HELME said there had evidently been a misunderstanding, and he moved the adjournment of the debate.

MR. T. M. HEALY suggested that the Motion for the adjournment had been inspired by the Government Whips, and protested against the matter being decided by a fresh House when the Members for Ireland who had already spoken were effectually silenced.

MR. HELME said his action was entirely spontaneous.

MR. T. M. HEALY accepted the hon. Member's statement, but suggested that the Motion should be withdrawn.

MR. DILLON also hoped the hon. Member would withdraw his Motion in view of the powerful argument brought forward by the hon. Member for North Louth that hon. Members who had presented their case to the House against the Board could not speak again. But for that argument he should have been in favour of an adjournment.

MR. JAMES CAMPBELL urged that the House was not in a position to decide the case, although that was not the fault of the Irish Members, because they had asked to have the correspondence and papers laid upon the Table. In justice to the Board, however, he must say that he did not think the House was in a position to act.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not hesitate to take strong steps with this Board, which had insulted the House of Commons and the Irish Members for the last twenty years.

MR. W. REDMOND said that if they went to a division it would not be against the Chief Secretary, because the Irish Members were in sympathy with him. The Board had, however, offered no answer to the charge made against them.

MR. BRYCE said the responsibility of carrying out the system of education was upon the Executive Government [NATIONALIST cries of "We ought to be the Executive Government."] Perhaps hon. Gentlemen ought to be, but at present the responsibility of keeping the educational machinery going was on the Irish Executive. He was obliged to make this a matter of Government and executive duty. [NATIONALIST cries of "The same old thing]. He asked hon. Members not to support him or to support this Board, but to do their duty by the teachers and pupils in Irish schools, who ought not to be deprived of their privileges.

Motion for the adjournment of the debate, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.), criticising the speech of the hon. Member for South Tyrone, said he was a disappointed man. He advised the Chief Secretary to stand to his guns and he would then overcome the bitter opposition of the hon. Member for South Tyrone, who was animated by personal motives.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL said it was not the first time he had been attacked by the hon. Member in this way. Was the hon. Member in order in imputing personal motives to him ?

MR. SPEAKER said he understood the hon. Gentleman to say that the hon. Member was not actuated by personal motives.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL repeated that the hon. Member had accused him of being actuated by personal motives.

MR. T. L. CORBETT said he was bound to admit that he had said that the hon. Member for South Tyrone might possibly have been actuated by personal motives.

*MR. SPEAKER : If the hon. Member said that, it was certainly disorderly.

MR. T. L. CORBETT : Then I withdraw it.

Original Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 72 ; Noes, 118. (Division List No. 180.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Brace, William
Byles, William Pollard
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway)
Dillon, John
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Halpin, J.
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazelton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hogan, Michael

Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lundon, W.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Killop, W.
Meagher, Michael
Mooney, J. J.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smyth, Thos. F. (Leitrim, S.)
Sullivan, Donal
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Patrick O'Brien and Mr. Boland.

NOES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Astbury, John Meir
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Beale, W. P.
Beaumont, Hubert (Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S.Geo.
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire)
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James (Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Burns, Rt. Hon John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, W.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J (St Pancras, W.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex, E. Grinstd
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Courthope, J. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Duckworth, James
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Essex, R. W.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Helme, Norval Watson
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Horniman, Emslie John
Hyde, Clarendon
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morse, L. L.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rees, J. D.
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Robinson, S.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Seaverns, J. H.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strass, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sutherland, J. E.
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Vivian, Henry
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
Whitehead, Rowland)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williamson, A.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid)

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND: It is an insult to the Irish representatives in this House.

And, it being after half-past Eleven of the clock on Monday evening, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order.

Adjourned at twenty-seven minutes after Two o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 3rd July, 1906.

LORD GRAVES (CLAIM TO VOTE FOR REPRESENTATIVE PEERS FOR IRELAND).

Report from the Committee for Privileges that Henry Cyril Percy Graves, Lord Graves, Baron of Gravesend in the Peerage of Ireland, had made out his claim as Baron Graves to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland; read, and agreed to; and resolved and adjudged accordingly.

LORD GRAVES (CLAIM TO VOTE FOR REPRESENTATIVE PEERS FOR IRELAND).

Ordered, That the Claimant do pay all the expenses attending the taking and printing the evidence, and also the cost of the examination of the evidence by an examiner appointed by the Crown Agent.

The Lord Clonbrock took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

London Squares and Enclosures Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Select Committee, That the Bill on being reported should be referred to the Chairman of Committees in order that certain proofs and consents may be given in respect thereof; read and agreed to. The King's consent signified; Bill reported from the Select Committee with Amendments; and re-committed.

London County Buildings Bill. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

London United Tramways Bill. The King's consent signified; and Bill, Reported, with Amendments.

Cheltenham Gas Bill; Metropolitan Water Board Bill; Peterborough Gas Bill; North East London Railway Bill. Reported, with Amendments.

Huddersfield Corporation Bill; Macclesfield and District Tramways Bill; Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Railway Bill. Reported, with Amendments.

South Suburban Gas Bill. Reported, without Amendment.

Twickenham and Teddington Electric Supply Bill. The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 15th and 25th of June last discharged, and Bill committed.

Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill. The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 21st and 25th of June last discharged, and Bill committed.

Ascot District Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill. The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 14th and 25th of June last discharged, and Bill committed.

Buckhaven, Methil, and Innerleven Burgh Extension Bill [H.L.]. Committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

St. John's (Westminster) Improvement Bill. Moved, That the order made on the 26th day of March last, "That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after the 19th day of June next," be dispensed with, and that the Bill be now read 2ª agreed to: Bill read 2ª accordingly, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Metropolitan District Railway Bill. Read 3ª and passed.

Epsom and Ewell Gas Bill, Waterford Corporation and Bridge Bill. Read 3ª, with the Amendments, and passed, and returned to the Commons.

Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with Amendments.

Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies Bill [H.L.]; Trent Navigation Company Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

Amendments. The said Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Returned from the Commons agreed to, with an Amendment.

Merthyr Tydfil Gas Bill. Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1.) Bill; Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2.) Bill. Read 3ª (according to order), and passed.

Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill [H.L.], House in Committee (according to order). The Amendments proposed by the Select Committee made. Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill [H.L.] House in Committee (according to order). The Amendments proposed by the Select Committee made. Standing Committee negatived. The Report of Amendments to be received on Thursday next.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9.) Bill. Brought from the Commons and read 1ª; to be printed and referred to the Examiners. (No. 151.)

PETITIONS.

EDUCATION.

Petitions in favour of denominational religious teaching in schools. Of teachers in schools at Shawforth —— Facit —— Cheetham Hill; of parents and guardians of children attending schools at Shawforth —— Facit.

Read, and ordered to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

COMPANY LAW AMENDMENT COMMITTEE.

Report of the Company Law Amendment Committee.

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3662. Sweden (Gothenburg).

Presented [by Command]; and ordered to lie upon the Table.

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

The Lord Wolverton discharged from serving on the Select Committee, and the Viscount Hutchinson (*E. Donoughmore*) named of the Committee in his place.

WORCESTER ELECTION.

The captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms to attend His Majesty with the address on the part of this House in the place of the Lord Steward.

CRIMINAL APPEAL BILL [H.L].

Reported from the Standing Committee with further Amendments. The Report of the Amendments made in Committee of the Whole House, and by the Standing Committee to be received on Tuesday next; and Bill to be printed as amended. (No. 150.)

GROUND GAME BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

LORD **BURGHCLERE**: My Lords, the measure which I venture to ask your Lordships to read a second time this afternoon is a small one, but with a somewhat ominous title—a title which will remind those of your Lordships who are unfortunately old enough to remember the difficulties of a quarter of a century ago of the considerable amount of opposition that was aroused to the Ground Game Act of 1880, which was brought in by the late Sir William Harcourt and my noble and learned friend Lord James of Hereford.

The purport of this Bill may, I think, be summed up briefly, but accurately, in a single sentence. It is to extend to the sheep farmers of the Highlands the privilege which every other tenant farmer in Great Britain has enjoyed for many years past—the right of trapping and snaring ground game all the year round. As a matter of fact, this particular right was given to the tenant farmers of Scotland in the Bill of 1880 as it was originally introduced into the House of

Commons, for that Bill, as Sir William Harcourt said on the First Reading, was brought in to establish the principle that the right to destroy animals which preyed upon the crops of the farmer should be inseparably incident to the occupation of the soil.

But in the course of the discussions in another place, Mr. Duff, whom some of your Lordships will remember, raised opposition to this privilege being extended to the grouse moors of Scotland. He stated that if moorland was included it would practically do away with sheep farms, and that all the farmers of Scotland would turn their land into deer forests. Mr. Duff took a too pessimistic view of the matter, but Sir William Harcourt seemed to be convinced by his arguments, or, at any rate, he was convinced of the difficulty of piloting so controversial a measure through the House of Commons, and he introduced an Amendment in the Committee stage, which Amendment this measure is designed to delete. The Amendment is in sub-section (3) of Section 1 of the Ground Game Act of 1880. That subsection practically takes away from the occupiers of moorland the right given to every other occupant of agricultural tenancies in Great Britain—namely, the right to trap and snare ground game all the year round.

During the past five or six years this question has been a somewhat burning one among the tenant farmers of Scotland. Sheep farmers allege for various reasons that this sub-section (3), which, as I have shown, is in itself an exception to the principle of the Act, and takes away a right from the tenant farmers in the Highlands only, places them in an exceptional and invidious position, and they have agitated to have it repealed. I would ask your Lordships to remember that the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture, which, as noble Lords opposite know, is by no means a partisan body, have on two occasions—at Edinburgh in 1903 and at Perth in 1905—passed unanimously a resolution advocating the principle of the measure which I now ask your Lordships to read a second time. On those occasions two ex-Presidents of the Board of Agriculture were present—at the first, my noble friend, Lord Onslow, and at the second, my right hon. friend Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes; and I gather from the reports of their speeches that these two ex-Ministers for Agriculture looked with a favourable eye on the Resolution unanimously passed in their presence.

Perhaps I should state the principal reasons which were put forward at the meetings in question why the Highland farmers wished this Bill to be brought in. In the first place, they point out that as their right to snare and trap ground game was confined to the period from December 11th to April 1st, the climatic condition of the north of Scotland rendered it somewhat difficult for them to obtain the full advantage of that privilege. As your Lordships know, the higher ground in Scotland is very often covered with snow during a considerable period of the time I have mentioned, and it is impossible for them, during that period, to trap and snare rabbits. The second reason put forward is this, that owing to the custom, which your Lordships know is prevalent in Scotland, of moving sheep early in August to the higher ground, rabbits come in at that time and eat a good deal of the winter feed. The sheep, moreover, trample out the rabbit runs, and render it almost impossible for farmers to fix their snares to catch rabbits. Another reason put forward is that the tenants are unable to get a sufficient supply of rabbits which by sale might in some way or other compensate them for the winter keep which had been eaten.

I do not say that these are the only reasons which can be given, but they were the reasons put forward by the tenant farmers, and which the Chamber of Agriculture endorsed by a unanimous vote. Anybody who has talked with tenant farmers in the Highlands on this subject will know perfectly well that they are just as much impressed as anybody with the value of grouse moors, which they recognise as generally beneficial to the interests of the country; and I am certain that if in the discussions of this Bill any one on behalf of the landlords of Scotland points out that there is anything in the measure detrimental to the preservation of grouse, or in any way injurious to the interests of landlords, the promoters of the Bill and the tenant farmers of Scotland will regard any such suggestion in the most reasonable spirit, so long as it does not directly interfere with the principle of the measure.

Speaking as one who has had considerable experience of grouse moors, I do not believe this Bill would do any harm at all, because the trapping would invariably take place on the fringe of the moor, where birds do not nest in any quantity, for the reason that that part of the moor is constantly being disturbed as it is contiguous to the inhabited farms. I would also point out that in Clause 3 of this Bill there is a provision by which tenants and landlords, should any special circumstances occur to render it necessary that such a step should be taken, can make an agreement for joint exercise. I do not know that it is necessary for me to explain the Bill at any greater length; it is a very short Bill, and it explains itself. Clause 2, as I have said, repeals sub-section (3) of Section 1 of the Ground Game Act of 1880, and enables the occupier of moorland and unenclosed land to kill ground game at any period of the year.

As your Lordships know, in the Ground Game Act no tenant is allowed to make an agreement or contract himself out of the provisions of that Act, but by Clause 3 of this Bill it is permitted that landlords and tenants may make agreements, so long as the agreements they arrive at are to their joint benefit. What that means is this, that if a landlord thought it would be better for his own gamekeeper to destroy the rabbits on the moor, he might come to an agreement with his tenant by giving that tenant a certain proportion of the rabbits that were killed to compensate him for the arrangement. By this it will be seen that Clause 3 is by no means a useless measure. I would remind the House that when the Act of 1880 was first brought in there were some gloomy prophets who said that its introduction would have an injurious effect on the game preservation of Great Britain, but I think your Lordships will acknowledge that, instead of its having had an injurious effect, there never was a time when there was a greater preservation of game than now. Those of your Lordships who were in political life before that time must remember the agitation for doing away with the game laws altogether. Since the passing of the Act of 1880, however, there has been no agitation against the game laws, and the state of preservation of game at the present moment is considerably better than it was before that much contested Act came into operation. For these reasons I venture to commend this small measure to your Lordships' consideration. I do not think it can possibly do any harm to the interests of grouse moors and shooting tenants, but it will remove a real and legitimate grievance of which the Highland farmers have, in my opinion, every reason to complain.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*Lord Burghclere.*)

*THE EARL OF ONSLOW: My Lords, my noble friend has referred to me as being one of those representing the Department over which at one time he presided who have attended the meetings of the Central Chamber of Agriculture in Scotland. That was an annual event always attended by the President of the Board of Agriculture, and which I used to dub by the title of "the annual heckle." We were always asked a number of questions as to what were the intentions of the Government, and amongst others I was asked whether it was possible for the late Government to bring in a measure similar to this one. I took the precaution of writing round to a large number of my friends, many of them Members of your Lordships' House and large owners of property in the Highlands of Scotland, to ask whether a measure of this kind would meet with their approval. I am bound to say that in the great majority of cases, the replies which I received were entirely in favour of some modification of the existing law, which it was generally felt worked hardly on the tenants of moorlands in Scotland.

But the proposal put before me when I was President of the Board of Agriculture differed in some respects from the one which the noble Lord has introduced tonight. The proposal was that ground game—hares and rabbits—should be destroyed by the tenant, not all the year round, but from October 1st, instead of from December 10th. I am not sure whether it will not be worth while, when your Lordships go into Committee on this Bill, to give consideration to the question whether the power to destroy rabbits during the grouse nesting season is absolutely necessary. I know that when the Ground Game Act was passed, that was one of the very strong reasons why the existing exemption in respect of moorlands was inserted, so that it might not interfere with the grouse at the time they were nesting. I venture to submit for the consideration of my noble friend, whether some alteration of that kind might not with advantage be introduced; but, so far as the general principle of the Bill is concerned, I believe that no right-thinking landlord in Scotland would object to some extention of the conditions under which tenants of moorlands may destroy rabbits. I, therefore, offer no objection to the Second Reading of the Bill.

LORD SALTOUN: My Lords, I do not think that there can be any real harm in tenants having the right to kill rabbits all the year round, but what I do fear is that, whether intentionally or unintentionally, the men they employ may trap or snare birds. During the season when birds are nesting and breeding they are very tame; they move about the runs and are very easily trapped and snared. I think some provision ought to be made for the protection of birds during the nesting season. If my noble friend who has brought in this Bill would accede to that request I would be quite satisfied with the Bill. What I propose—and I will be frank—is to move an Amendment in Committee to make the season begin on September 1st. I hope my noble friend will induce the promoters of the Bill to accept that Amendment, in which event I shall have no objection to the Bill, which would do no harm whatever.

*LORD HAMILTON OF DALZELL: My Lords, this is not a Bill which applies solely to Scotland. It applies generally to the United Kingdom. It has, however, a special application to Scotland, and has therefore had the earnest consideration of Mr. Sinclair (the Secretary for Scotland). Your Lordships have heard how the restrictions of the snaring of hares and rabbits came to be introduced into the Ground Game Act, 1880, and I should like to call attention to a phrase that was used by the late Sir William Harcourt when he introduced this Amendment. He said that the Amendment was consistent with the principle which he had over and over again stated—namely, that where he could accomplish the object of protecting crops without injuring sport he would do so. He said he had good reason to believe that three-and-a-half months was a sufficient period for farmers on moorlands and unenclosed land to keep down the ground game, and he was, therefore, content that the limitation should be introduced into the Bill.

The attitude of His Majesty's Government in this matter is precisely the same to-day as that taken up by Sir William Harcourt twenty-six years ago. Their desire is to protect agriculture and not to injure sport, and as it has been found in practice that the period allowed under the Act of 1880 is not sufficient, His Majesty's Government will have no objection to the Second Reading of this Bill. They would like, however, to point out to the noble Lord who has introduced it that it might perhaps be desirable in Committee to consider whether the period might not be slightly restricted. This Bill in the other House had the names of two Conservative Members upon it—Lord Dalrymple and Mr. Lane Fox. I think your Lordships will allow that those are two names with a good sporting ring about them. The Bill passed through the other House without Amendment and I believe without discussion, and I hope your Lordships will see your way to give it a Second Reading.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I do not think that any of my noble friends who sit near me are likely to take exception to this Bill. It seems to me, if I may be allowed to say so, a very reasonable measure. It may be desirable in Committee to introduce certain changes in detail, but I will not enter into the consideration of those at present. The Bill as it stands seems to me to be one which, as the noble mover told us, is not calculated to do any material injury to sporting rights in unenclosed places; but I confess I support it on a somewhat broader ground—I mean on the ground that it is not desirable that during nearly nine months of the year occupiers of land in any part of the country should be absolutely prevented from protecting themselves against the ravages of mischievous and destructive animals. I am the more inclined to regard the Bill favourably because I observe that it contains two important provisions which to some extent qualify its effects. Under one of them the use of fire-arms, which for a purpose of this kind are clearly unnecessary, is not permitted, and, under the other, leave is given to the owners and occupiers of these holdings to make and enforce agreements for the exercise for their joint benefit of the right to kill and take ground game. I welcome that admission that questions of this kind can be best dealt with by the joint efforts of the two parties interested in the land of this country, and I for one shall therefore raise no objection to the passing of the Bill.

*LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD: My Lords, although the course of the debate renders it unnecessary for any words from me, perhaps your Lordships will not think it unnatural that I should like to say something at this stage. The noble Lord in charge of the Bill stated that the Act of 1880 was jointly introduced by the late Sir William Harcourt and myself. In one sense that is true, but it is not an entirely accurate description of what took place. The credit for that Bill was due to Sir William Harcourt. I, as law officer, rendered him all the assistance I could, but it was he who designed the Bill and carried it through the House of Commons. Sir William Harcourt took charge of the negotiations with every possible interest that could be affected, and the skill with which he managed those negotiations can well be understood by every one who knew him.

We were in a strange position then. There were very great fears that the Bill would irritate more than it would soothe. The interests opposed to the landlords were then in a state of great anger. The Bill, however, passed, and those anticipations have been proved to be entirely unfounded. If the Act of 1880 had not been passed, what would have been the state of our game laws now? Probably there would now be no protection for game. The Act has by its justice produced a state of protection for game, and has also got rid of that unhappy feeling which in 1880 existed between the owner of the land and his occupying tenant.

What is the evil that the tenant now complains of? He says that you give him only three months' protection at a time of the year when he cannot take full advantage of it. The three months are of no use to him comparatively. He is shut out during nine months of the year from taking ground game. If we think that there is any hardship on the landlord, that can be dealt with in Committee; but my present view is that we shall not do sufficient to redress the present wrongs if we do not pass the Bill as it is. There will be no more facilities given by this Bill to the tenant to poach the landlord's grouse than exist at present. As tenant he is already on the gronnd. The only practical question to be considered is whether there shall be any alteration in the period of time in the Bill during which ground game may be killed, but I think if you reduce the time mentioned in the Bill it will not give satisfaction to the farmers. There is a desire to do justice to both parties, and I am sure that a satisfactory measure will result from the consideration of this Bill in Committee.

On question, Bill read 2^a accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

THE CONGO FREE STATE.

*LORD REAY rose to call attention to the recent Decrees issued by the Government of the Independent State of the Congo, and the correspondence respecting its administration: Africa, No. 1. (1906.)

The noble Lord said: My Lords, in the first place I wish to call your attention to a Circular Despatch of the noble Marquess opposite (the Marquess of Lansdowne), dated August 8th, 1903, which gives a very clear statement with regard to the Congo situation. Lord Lansdowne states in the Despatch that—

> "The sentiments which undoubtedly animated the founders of the Congo State and the representatives of the Powers at Berlin were such as to deserve the cordial sysmpathy of the British Government, who have been loath to believe either that the beneficent intentions with which the Congo State was constituted, and of which it gave so solemn a pledge at Berlin, have in any way been abandoned, or that every effort has not been made to realise them. But the fact remains that there is a feeling of grave suspicion, widely prevalent among the people of this country, in regard to the condition of affairs in the Congo State, and there is a deep conviction that the many charges brought against the State's administration must be founded on a

basis of truth. In these circumstances, His Majesty's Government are of opinion that it is incumbent upon the Powers parties to the Berlin Act to confer together and to consider whether the obligations undertaken by the Congo State in regard to the natives have been fulfilled; and, if not, whether the Signatory Powers are not bound to make such representations as may secure the due observance of the provisions contained in the Act."

The next important document in connection with affairs in the Congo was a very able Report by one of His Majesty's Consuls, Mr. Casement, dated December 11th, 1903. It was probably that document and the despatch of the noble Marquess which led the Government of the Congo to appoint a Commission of Inquiry in July, 1904. The next important document is the Report of the Commission of Inquiry, which was issued on October 30th, 1905. Immediately after that Report had been issued, the Congo Government appointed another Commission to examine the Report of the Commission of Inquiry.

The evidence received by the Commission of Inquiry, and the Report of the second Commission have not been published. The reasons given for the refusal to publish these documents are not convincing, and it is certainly to be regretted. But we are told that the conclusions of the second Commission were "in general harmony" with those of the first Commission. That Report may, therefore, be considered to have an authoritative character. There can be no doubt that the Berlin Act gives to His Majesty's Government, as one of the parties to that Act, the right to claim that the obligations undertaken by the Congo State should be fulfilled. I admit that interference with the internal affairs of a foreign State should be sparingly exercised, but from the Report of Consul Casement, and the Report of the Commission of Inquiry, it is quite clear that exceptional circumstances fully justified the remonstrances of His Majesty's Government, which have been endorsed by public opinion in this country.

The next important document is one which appeared on June 3rd—a Report to the Sovereign of the Congo State, by the three Secretaries, Mr. de Cuvelier, Mr. Droogmans and Mr. Liebrechts. That Report is accompanied by a series of extremely important Decrees. Everything depends on the spirit in which these Decrees will be carried out by the officials of the Congo State. Great difficulties have been experienced in the organisation of the Civil Service of the Congo State, and we have a right to expect that continuous efforts will be made to improve the *status* of officials, who have a very difficult task to perform in such a large territory. With regard to the financial condition of the Congo State, we have not sufficient *data* to form an adequate judgment. Greater publicity in this respect similar to that which obtains with the accounts in our Colonies would be to the advantage of the Congo State, and would disarm legitimate criticism.

I now wish to call attention to some of the Decrees. The first Decree establishes the right of the natives to the lands they occupy according to local customs. The rights of occupation are to be scheduled in accordance with regulations to be issued by the Governor-General. This involves, of course, a survey. In every village the extent of land occupied by natives is to be trebled, and even a further extension can be sanctioned by the head of the State. If necessary, expropriation will be applied in order to give effect to this rule. The natives are not allowed to alienate their property without the previous sanction of the Governor-General. Seed and plants are to be placed gratuitously at the disposal of the cultivators, and they will receive guidance with respect to proper cultivation. Their rights in the forests and fisheries are recognised with proper safeguards. This Decree is certainly a step in the right direction, if it is carried out properly, especially in that part of the territory in which companies have obtained concessions, as well as in the national domain and in that of the Crown.

The next Decree has reference to direct and personal taxes. It is left to the Governor-General to settle the tax, keeping in view the resources of the different districts and of the population and the condition of the natives. The tax cannot be less than six francs or more than twenty-four francs annually. Therefore, it will always be less than one pound. The tax can be paid in produce or in labour. The heads of districts determine what produce will be received in payment and its value. They also settle the labour and its value. It must not in any case exceed forty hours a month. The Decree states that in order to create in the natives a taste for work they will receive for produce and for labour such remuneration as takes into account the value of the produce and the standard of wages in the district. The remuneration will be paid in kind or in vouchers, which will be exchanged in kind at the warehouses of the State. I need hardly point out that the efficiency of this reform depends on the effect given to this Decree by the Administration. Forced labour is open to abuse, and the sooner it disappears the better. If the valuation of produce and labour is made on a liberal scale, the abuses which undoubtedly have been proved will tend to disappear.

The Despatch of Sir Edward Grey, dated January 9th last, ought certainly to be carefully considered in this connection. In that Despatch it is pointed out that if the tax is employed for commercial operations it remains open to the imputation of constituting a form of servitude. Sir Edward Grey says—

> "But the labour demanded of the Congolese natives in the from of a 'tax' is not, for the most part, employed for objects of general utility in which they are themselves interested; it is employed by the State, or by the trading companies, to whom the right to levy the 'tax' is delegated, for the advancement of commercial operations, in which the native has no interest, and from which he can receive no benefit."

That delegation, I believe, will be no longer possible under this Decree which repeals Article 35 of the Decree of the 18th November, 1903. Sir Edward Grey proceeds—

> "A system which compels the personal service of the citizen for such a purpose as this—and it is to be observed that the provisions in Article 34 of the Law of the 18th of November, 1903, enabling the native to fulfil his obligations to the State by other means, have proved in the Congo to be almost entirely illusory—must always, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, remain open to the imputation of constituting a form of servitude, differing in essence but little from actual slavery."

With that opinion of the Secretary of State I entirely agree. Then he further proceeds to say—

> "His Majesty's Government are not aware of any grounds for supposing that the natives of the Congo, if provided with land for cultivation or offered employment as labourers, would show less willingness to work for the same object, and the habit of work thus acquired would, no doubt, in the Congo as in British Africa, eventually conquer their natural indolence and lead them to engage in the cultivation of the soil and in trade, not merely to fulfil their obligations to the State, but to ameliorate their own position. While protesting, however, against the theoretical justification of the existing system, which is contained in the Report—a system resulting in the substitution in the Congo of forced labour for the hired labour, by means of which the development of the other parts of Africa is effected—His Majesty's Government are glad to note that the Commissioners consider that, in practice, no native should be compelled to pay his contribution to the State in the form of labour if he can find the means to pay it in money or produce. His Majesty's Government earnestly commend this suggestion to the favourable consideration of the Congo Government, but they would point out that the reality of the reform, doubtless aimed at by the Commission, consists not so much in the proposed amplification of Article 34 of the existing Law as in removing the obstacles which at present preclude the natives from taking advantage of it."

Lord Reay.

Whether the Decree will fully give effect to this advice given by Sir Edward Grey I admit is open to doubt, and I think it would be well to enforce this advice on every occasion which will be given to His Majesty's Government to enforce it.

The next Decree deals with the collective tax. The native chiefs are made responsible for the collective tax, which is assessed on a group of individuals. The chiefs are salaried and exempt of the tax. It is obvious that abuses may easily arise if the chiefs are inclined to act arbitrarily in the collection of the tax, and strict supervision will have to be exercised. An important reform is that the collection of taxes will only be carried out by officials of the State, and that private individuals will no longer be allowed to act as collectors. The system of armed sentries is abolished with regard to the collection of taxes. Individual assessment will be the rule, and collective assessment will only be tolerated where individual assessment is impracticable. The improvement of communications is mentioned in the Report as necessary in order to facilitate transport. This is self-evident, and necessitates expenditure on a large scale.

The next Decree I wish to allude to is that on the tribal chiefs. It appeared that both Commissions were of opinion that the recognition of the authority of the tribal chiefs was important for the better government of the State. The Government of the Congo itself is convinced of the importance of maintaining the tribe under the authority of its chief, and, what is of even greater importance, of its customs. They are of opinion that this institution strengthens the authority of the State and improves the social condition of the natives. The chief has no other rights than those which are stated in the Deed of Investiture. Among other duties, he is bound to assist the local authorities in the levying of militia and of labourers, and in providing the supplies which are required. It is quite clear that without sufficient control abuses may easily arise. If it is intended that the native chief should protect the members of his tribe, and that he should be punished for any illegality he may commit, the system may be accepted. In the absence of a sufficient number of trained officials, there is no alternative. Provision should be made for training the heirs of chiefs, so that they should be able to discharge their duties when called upon to succeed.

Both Commissions were of opinion that for public works—roads, railways, fortifications—forced labour was justifiable. A Decree limits the liability to such labour to a period of five years. In this case, again, the conditions under which this Decree is applied must affect the criticism of a measure which in principle must be considered opposed to sound economics. A Decree has been issued, in accordance with the recommendations of both Commissions, to distinguish between police and military operations. In the Report of the second Commission it is also laid down that care should be taken that companies and private individuals should not engage in armed expeditions, which is already prohibited. The Decree does not allow a military expedition to be undertaken until an effort has been made to restore order by other means. It is admitted in the Report that the number of European officers—one to fifty men—ought to be doubled in order that strict supervision may be exercised. The Report states that this will be done as soon as the public exchequer can dispense the necessary funds.

Inspectors are to be appointed to secure to the natives their lawful rights, and to see that their mutual relations, and those with State officials and private individuals should be in accordance with the regulations. They will exercise their duties especially in the territories owned by or leased to private companies. The inspectors will receive complaints from and against the natives and will inform the judicial authorities of any breaches of the law. If these inspectors are carefully selected, and if they are sufficiently numerous, they may be able to prevent and put a stop to arbitrary proceedings. But in Sir Edward Grey's Despatch of January 9th the root of the evil is dealt with. Sir Edward Grey says—

> "In dealing with the question of the concessionary companies, the commissioners express the view that the ideal remedy for the abuses noted within the concessions would be to deprive these companies of all administrative power. His Majesty's Government hold that the exercise of administrative functions by persons or companies who have acquired the whole trade of the area which they are called upon to administer must lead to grave irregularities, and they would have welcomed a declaration by the Commission condemning the association of trade and administration, whether in the person of concessionary companies or in that of the State itself. It is much to be regretted that the Commissioners should have ignored altogether the evils of State-trading, and failed to recommend, in the case of the companies, the practical adoption of the remedy which they themselves recognise as 'ideal.'"

I need hardly say that I am in cordial agreement with the advice here given to the Government of the Congo State by the Foreign Secretary, and it certainly is to be regretted that in these Decrees there is nothing showing that any effect has been given to that advice.

The strictures of the Commission of inquiry on the judicial system have led to a Decree which establishes circuit courts. The recruitment of trained jurists is difficult, but their increase is clearly required for the effective administration of justice. We must I think accept these Decrees as evidence of the recognition by the Government of the Congo State that reforms were urgently needed. These reforms are tentative, and must lead to further reforms in the same direction.

As regards trade, in the Circular Despatch of August 8th, 1903, it was stated that—

> "Article 1 of the Berlin Act provides that the trade of all nations shall enjoy complete freedom in the basin of the Congo; and Article V. provides that no Power which exercises Sovereign rights in the basin shall be allowed to grant therein a monopoly or favour of any kind in matters of trade. In the opinion of His Majesty's Government, the system of trade now existing in the Independent State of the

Congo is not in harmony with these provisions."

The Despatch further stated that—

> "His Majesty's Government will be glad to receive any suggestions which the Governments of the signatory Powers may be disposed to make in reference to this important question, which might perhaps constitute, wholly or in part, the subject of a reference to the tribunal at the Hague."

I wish to ask my noble friend the Under-Secretary whether any suggestions have been received, and whether reference to the Tribunal at the Hague is considered by His Majesty's Government as a possible solution.

It should be noticed that Belgium is not responsible in any way for the affairs of the Congo. Belgium is one of the best-governed countries on the continent, and its prosperous condition is the result of its wise Government. I will quote the opinion of M. Beernaert, the eminent Belgian statesman, than whom no one can express an opinion of greater weight on the affairs of the Congo. M. Beernaert stated in the Belgian Chamber on March 1st that—

> "Belgium to-day has no right whatever to take over the Congo, and it is deliberately, voluntarily, but against my wishes, that she renounced that right under the form of an ill-defined adjournment. Freely also, and after examination, did Parliament renounce all control and all demand for information which the preceding Convention assured to our country, and gave to the Congo State its full liberty of management and borrowing powers."

Then he added—

> "These are matters which we may regret, and I need hardly tell the House that this is my personal feeling."

That is a very authoritative expression of opinion with regard to the affairs of the Congo, and I can only add that I hope that His Majesty's Government will be able in the future as in the past to exercise its due influence so that in the Congo State an administration may be introduced worthy of its founders and worthy of the virtues of the Belgian people, with whom, although it has no legal link, it is certainly in many respects connected and will ultimately become more closely related.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord FITZMAURICE): My Lords, there is a very wide interest felt in this country in the question which has just been

brought forward by my noble friend in his comprehensive speech. He has sketched very correctly the history of the matter in its main lines. It is not necessary, therefore, that I should take up the time of your Lordships by explaining the nature of the successive Commissions—the Commission of Examination and the Commission of Reform, which have been dealt with by my noble friend; but I would like to take the earliest opportunity of paying a deserved tribute of respect and admiration to an eminent British Civil servant, a member of the Consular Service, whose work was preliminary to that of both the Commissions. It is within the knowledge of many of your Lordships that at an earlier stage in these transactions Mr Robert Casement was sent to the Congo to make a Report, so that the Foreign Office might be informed whether or not they could attach credence to the statements made by gentlemen in this country and others who had taken up the question of the government or, as they called it, the misgovernment, of the Congo State. Mr. Casement had an exceedingly difficult task, and was subject to all those perils of flood and field which a man who has work to do in the interior of Africa has to encounter. He had, moreover, to carry on an inquiry which could not fail to be more or less disagreeable to those concerned, and to make him an object of suspicion and dislike to them. It is, as has been pointed out, unfortunate that the Report of the first Commission was not accompanied by the evidence, but the Report is sufficient to vindicate Mr. Casement. That gentleman has been the object of many unjust attacks, and I am sure I am giving utterance to the feelings of all here when I express the hope that Mr. Casement, whom reasons of health have compelled to retire from an appointment which he held at Lisbon, will have an opportunity of adding further services to those with which his name is already associated.

My noble friend has placed before your Lordships a considerable number of details in regard to the work of the second Commission. Although we have the Decrees, of which I have placed a considerable number of copies in the Library, we have not the text of the Report on which they were founded.

But the documents we have are quite sufficient. If I desired—not that I do so—to take up the time of the House by a long indictment of the Government of the Congo Free State as Mr. Casement found it, I am quite satisfied with one simple fact. The *Quarterly Review*—a great English literary and political organ, not addicted to being the too ready recipient of every tale which the missionary or humanitarian may bring from distant parts of the world—placed on record in a most complete and carefully written article, published in January, the opinion that in many of these large districts in the Congo, and especially in the Abir district, worked by the so-called Abir Company, such a condition of things has existed, and to a certain extent exists still, that the old Government of the Arab slave traders had some features which entitled it to a more favourable opinion from civilised persons than the Government of the Congo Free State, which dispossessed and succeeded the Arab Empire.

Turning to the condition of things described by my noble friend, I may say that I have done my best to make myself master of the net result of the Decrees. The first thing that strikes me is that one of the most important recommendations of the Commission, basing itself on the Report of the earlier Commission, has not been carried out, and it is a very vital one. The Commission recommended that the Procureur-D'Etat, who has now become Procureur-Général, should be absolutely independent of the Governor-General as regards the prosecution of the offenders, except in cases where the security of the State was at stake. The Government of the Congo have refused to adopt that recommendation, and by leaving the previous legislation unaltered have confirmed the power of the Governor-General to stop legal proceedings which he considers inopportune.

I am willing to grant that if one takes the mere letter of these bulky Decrees and isolates them from the surrounding circumstances, and regards them as operating under a Government able and willing to enforce them, the position of the native in the Congo Free State might really be regarded as so idyllic that some of your Lordships on leaving this House might almost be disposed to take a ticket immediately for the Congo. But I cannot say that the matter really works out in practice in that way. No doubt it may be said that the native of a rubber-bearing district in one of the big concessions will live on the extensive lands which had for centuries been in the occupation of his tribe under the authority of his chief. That is what the Decrees seem to contemplate. He will pay a tax of between 4s. 10d. and 19s. 4d. a year, which sum he will procure either by the sale of his rubber to the highest bidder among the traders, who will be free to set up their establishments on the native reserves, or by working as the hired labourer of the concessionary company for a fair wage—the companies are to be induced to pay wages in money as much as possible—until he has earned the necessary sum, or, if he is foolish enough to prefer this roundabout way, by working out his tax in not more than forty hours' labour a month on the concession. The tranquillity of his existence is broken perhaps once by compulsory service as a paid labourer on a work of public utility for five years, or seven years in the army, and occasionally by a slight *corvée* of short duration. If a European ill-treats him, he has easy access to one of the travelling magistrates, who can deal with the case by himself, if it is trivial, and if not send it before a territorial Court, or if the offence is very grave, before one of the four new Courts of first instance. If the European is sentenced and appeals, the native need not go to Boma to be present at the trial on appeal, as the Appeal Court will judge *sur pièces.* If he has a dispute with his employer about his wages, the travelling magistrate can decide the question, if the amount involved is under £4, without appeal. If the native is idle and will not provide himself with the money to pay his tax, he is given two warnings, at intervals of a fortnight (if his tax is payable monthly), and then, if he has not paid, he may be imprisoned with hard labour at the nearest Government post for not more than one month in the case of a first offence and not more than three months in any case. No official inferior to a *chef de secteur* may order his imprisonment on this account, and the company's agents have no say in the matter at all. His wife cannot be imprisoned for his own failure to pay.

If this were really to be the happy existence of the natives, the concessionary companies would, to say the least of it, find their profits enormously reduced, and very quickly reduced, an eventuality which the State will not be too anxious to permit. The delimitation of the lands to be accorded to natives is left entirely to the discretion of the Governor-General, and the State, be it remembered, is still to take half profits in the company concessions besides being an immense owner itself. Therefore, while the opportunities of ill-treating the natives are slightly lessened, the chance that the opportunities still left will be made the most of is as great as it ever was, seeing that the State is still the chief trader in the country, and that there is still no real guarantee that offenders will be brought to justice.

Some more admirable laws have been added to the statute-book of the Congo State. There was, perhaps, not a great deal to be said before against many of the laws. A fairly ideal picture could have been drawn under the old state of things; but the conditions which made former legislation in practice absolutely useless for the protection of natives remain, so far as I am able to judge, substantially unaltered. If the spirit of the law had been observed before, the Congo would have been a paradise; if the spirit of the law were observed now, it would be a paradise, with a few extra attractions thrown in. It is difficult, however, to see why or how the law should be carried out as long as the conditions to which I have already referred exist, as long as the State is itself the principal trader, while at the same time the Governor-General is the judge of the extent of the native lands, and the administration of native justice, though organised in a faultless manner on paper, does not afford any real or substantial security. I am afraid that I must say that under these circumstances the ticket to the Congo, which I referred to just now, had better, perhaps, on grounds of ordinary prudence and foresight, be a return ticket.

The question will, of course, be asked, What under these circumstances is the position of His Majesty's Government? I am glad to think that here again we are able to look back with complete agreement upon the policy of our predecessors. This country has certain rights in regard to what goes on in this vast territory. But our rights are hedged about in various ways which give rise to diplomatic difficulties. The noble Marquess opposite, when Foreign Secretary, issued the appeal to which reference has been made. But so far as I know the only Sovereign who really sent anything like a real reply to that appeal was the Sultan of Turkey, who stated that he felt a great interest in this question. That is one of the ironies of the situation. Yesterday your Lordships were discussing Macedonia; to-day we are discussing the Congo.

Under the Berlin Act we, in common with the other signatories, have certain rights which cover the vast basin of the Congo which nothing except a further Act of the signatory Powers can alter or change. I might compare the position of the ruler of the Congo State, on coming into his kingdom, to the position of a man buying or inheriting an encumbered estate. He finds that there are mortgages upon it. He finds also, perhaps, that it is subject to a variety of easements and serving rights, which he is bound to recognise. I need not again enumerate the main conditions of the Berlin Act, but I would desire to remind the House that amongst them is the right of the Powers to establish an International River Commission on the Congo, which I have always believed, if established, would be the means, like the Danube Commission was, of upholding the flag of civilisation by its presence in these waste and neglected regions of the earth. But we have other rights under the Convention of 1884 which first recognised the existence of the International Association of the Congo out of which the Free State grew. One of the most important of these is the right to establish Consular Courts. It may be said that this would not directly benefit the natives. Nevertheless, when we are aware that a British subject, the Rev. Mr. Stannard, a missionary of high character, to whose reputation testimony has been borne by the officials of the Congo State, amongst whom he has lived and had his being for a considerable time, has only quite recently been placed upon his trial, and when we are expecting hour by hour to know what the result of that trial may be, and remembering what took place at the trial of Mr. Stokes, which was one of the most disgraceful judicial farces which ever sullied the annals of what purported to be a Court of justice, we can have no intention of abandoning our right to establish Consular Courts in the Congo State, and we on the contrary attach great importance to that right.

When the Congo Free State first came into existence it was placed before the world as a great philanthropic enterprise; and when acting as Under-Secretary to Lord Granville, I was the mark for many attacks by those who thought that I was indifferent to this great philanthropic enterprise that was to carry civilisation into the heart of Africa. And now, twenty years after these events, I find the writer in the *Quarterly Review* using these words—

> "Whoever they may be—British, Belgian, German, or what not—the names of the directors of the Abir Company should be published in full; and the owners of those names should then and there retire into private life as the only expiation they can make for having, consciously or unconsciously, left so dark a stain in the heart of the Congo Free State. They have directed a policy which has resulted in the death of several thousand defenceless savages, the mutilation of many more, the outraging of women, the destruction of homes, and the depopulation of a once well-peopled land."

After the events that have occurred in the Congo, every right this country possesses, diplomatically or morally, is a right that we ought to stand upon. But in all these matters we have not only to bear in mind what our rights are, but the time and the opportunity. I am inclined to think that we shall be upon firmer ground, when the time comes for more active interference, by now standing upon what I may call the broad equities of the situation, rather than upon comparatively small legal points. But for the moment our duty is to indicate the great gaps which exist in the scheme of reforms, and to do everything we can to encourage the Government of the Free State to give as real and as wide an operation as possible to these reforms.

There was an idea on the Continent of Europe at one time that the campaign of the Congo Reform Association in this country was either the action of a few misguided enthusiasts, or only the work of some Protestant fanatics. No doubt the action of those who laboured in this cause was very greatly hampered by that impression abroad. Now, fortunately, those ideas have entirely disappeared. In Catholic as well as in Protestant countries, and in Catholic as much as in Protestant circles in Belgium, it is now recognised that this campaign was in no manner either the work of misguided fanaticism or of Protestant bigotry. One of the most eloquent denouncers of what has been done has been that eminent Roman Catholic statesman, who some time ago was the much respected Prime Minister of Belgium. I refer to M. Beernhart. This great Belgian statesman himself gave voice to the feelings of outraged humanity upon this question. Among the severest critics of the Congo State are not only M. Cattier, the eminent Belgian jurist, and M. Vandevelde, the great Parliamentary Labour Leader, but also Father Vermeesch, a well known Roman Catholic ecclesiastic. It is therefore our duty to believe that public opinion in Belgium, which is much more powerful, because nearer, is rapidly bringing to bear on the official heads of the Congo State a pressure which will cause not only the enforcement of these Decrees, but their re-issue in a revised and far more drastic form.

It is our interest and policy in this country to support the legitimate action of Belgian opinion, and to be most careful not to suggest by word or deed that any attack is being made on the Belgian Government or people. We desire that it should be theirs to move in the matter, and they know best when the circumstances are favourable. Whether this matter is one which can be brought before The Hague Conference is a question to which I cannot give a positive answer. The sphere of work of the future Hague Conference is still a topic of consideration among the Powers; and I cannot hold out too great hopes. But the idea is present to the mind of the Secretary of State, and no opportunity to press forward this question will be lost. But, on the other hand, I hope and believe that the extremely complicated character of the task which His Majesty's Government have in Africa and the Congo will be recognised.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I do not desire to add many words to the statement to which we have just listened. My noble friend has spoken strongly, but not at all too strongly, of the manner in which the

Government of the Congo State has discharged the responsibilities which, in a moment of mistaken confidence, were thrown upon it by the Great Powers. The attitude of the Congo State has been unsatisfactory throughout, and I am bound to say that I do not think it has ever been more unsatisfactory than it is at the present moment. I learn from my noble friend's statement that His Majesty's Government will watch events in the Congo with care, that it is their intention to insist upon our treaty rights, and that we shall certainly not admit the extravagant pretensions which have recently been put forward by the ruler of the Congo State to deal with these vast territories as if they were a private chattel of his own, and without guidance or direction from outside.

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has lately announced that he claims for the signatory Powers the right to take such steps as they may consider called for to ensure the observance by the independent State of its obligations; and I trust that he may be successful in inducing the other Powers to act with us in this matter. I can scarcely bring myself to believe that, however reluctant they may be, they will be content to acquiesce in the claim of the Sovereign of the Congo State in the shape in which it has been most recently presented to the public. Nothing could, I venture to think, be more humiliating to the Great Powers than to acquiesce in such a position; and nothing certainly could be more humiliating to us; for we may fairly claim that it is this country which from the first has taken a leading part in endeavouring to obtain redress for the wrongs of this misgoverned people.

It was the outburst of indignation in this country which first called attention to these occurrences. Then came the mission of Mr. Consul Casement, to whom my noble friend referred in terms of commendation which were thoroughly well deserved. Mr. Casement's report certainly had the effect of raising a corner of the curtain behind which were shrouded the iniquities that had been going on for many years. It led to the Commission of Inquiry whose report was very valuable, although it was given to the world—in spite of the assurances that had been obtained—without the all-important evidence on which it was founded. That report, even if allowance be made for the fact that in remote regions of this kind a certain amount of hardship and rough usage is inevitable, disclosed a condition of things more deplorable than anything which we could have ventured to imagine for ourselves. We have had discussions in this House as to what is and what is not slavery; but there was certainly brought to light in Mr. Casement's report and in the report of the Commission of Inquiry the existence of bondage under the most barbarous and inhuman conditions, and maintained for mercenary motives of the most selfish character.

What is the latest phase of these transactions? We are presented with a collection of Decrees which, no doubt, contain the outline of many reforms such as might be of great advantage if full effect were given to them; but it is, I believe, the universal opinion that these Decrees still leave room for the existence of some of the worst abuses which have prevailed in recent years in the Congo. They contemplate, although perhaps in a modified form, forced labour; and forced labour under the supervision of the officials of the Congo Government is forced labour in its very worst shape. Then, again, as I understand them, they leave the local courts subject to the interference of the Executive Government—a state of things which is not very likely to conduce to the administration of justice.

Again, they contain, as far as we are aware, no provisions rendering it necessary that the accounts of these provinces should be made public. It is to information as to the financial condition of the country above everything else that it is desirable that the public should have access. We know that these concessionaire companies are making enormous profits. I see it stated that the £20 shares of some of them are quoted at £600. These huge profits are wrung out of the suffering population of the Congo, and there is no means of ascertaining how much or how little of the money thus extorted is devoted to expenditure for providing proper administration. We are told that by these Decrees plots of land owned by these wretched villagers are to be increased. But we all know that it is not out of the little village patches which they cultivate that they earn a livelihood, but that it is on their forest rights upon which these companies have so mercilessly encroached that they are dependent for their existence.

It has been truly said that it is not to the letter of these regulations that we have to look, so much as to the spirit in which the laws and regulations are administered. On that point there is a grain of comfort in these decrees. Three inspectors are, I believe, to be appointed; but they will have 300,000 square miles of territory apiece to look after, so that the grain of comfort is a small one. I trust that His Majesty's Government will keep an eye on the inspectors.

Something has been said as to our right to interest ourselves in these matters. I cannot admit that there is any doubt whatever as to our right. We rely on the spirit as well as the letter of the Berlin Act. What does it say? It lays down that no Power exercising sovereign rights in the above-mentioned regions should be allowed to grant a monopoly or favour of any kind in matters of trade. I believe that the whole country is covered with monopolies, and that each of the concessionaire companies has been given a monopoly of the most objectionable character.

The next clause in the Act states that all the Powers exercising sovereign rights or influence in the territories bind themselves to watch over the preservation of the native tribes and their moral and physical well-being, and to help in suppressing slavery and the slave trade. These words, read by the light of what we know to be going on in the Congo, seem almost to be ironically written. I say, therefore, that our right is perfectly clear. But I may add, quite irrespective of any right we enjoy under the letter of these Acts, that we have a moral right to interfere which comes to us in consequence of the false pretences—I cannot use a gentler word—under which the Congo State has acquired its privileged position in that part of Africa. There can be no doubt that when this country acquiesced in the original arrangement most people believed that what they were doing was to give to the Belgian Government a certain control over the regions in question. We know how great a difference there is between the Government of Belgium—the enlightened and wise Government of Belgium—and the Administration of the Congo Independent State.

One word as to the remedies to which it is possible for us to look in the hope of contributing something towards the introduction of a better state of things. We entered into a specific agreement in 1884—an agreement executed between Sir E. Malet and the representative of the then Congo Association—under which we were guaranteed the most-favoured-nation treatment in the Congo, and under which we especially reserved the right to exercise consular jurisdiction within it. I agree with my noble friend that this was a very important reservation; and all I can say is that I hope, if these abuses continue, we shall claim our right to appoint consuls in the Congo. I do not care in the least whether there are British subjects to look after or not; but what I do feel is that the presence of half a dozen Englishmen located in the centres of trade within the Congo will be worth more than a whole row of inspectors or officials belonging to the Administration of the Congo Free State.

But besides this, I should certainly not abandon the hope that, should these abuses continue, the Powers, who are signatories of the Berlin Treaty, will consider, in a favourable spirit, a proposal that a conference should be again summoned to examine the whole question, and how far the promises, held out to these Powers at the time when the Congo Government was created, have been fulfilled or not. The assembly of such a conference would, I am confident, have the effect of leading to proposals which would result in a better state of things. I repeat that I guard myself, as the speakers who have preceded me have done, from being supposed to make any complaint or criticism of the Belgian Government. I believe, on the contrary, that the Belgian Government, or the members of it, abhor and regret these occurrences as much as we do. Personally, I should be delighted to see the Congo State transferred to the Belgian Government. I hope it may some day be so transferred; and if it is, I trust it will be transferred under conditions which will give the Belgian Government an absolutely free hand to deal with this concessionaire region, within which the worst abuses prevail, and which claims for itself a kind of immunity from all interference or supervision. The only other remark I will make is this. I trust that we may have some at all events of the Papers to which reference has been made in this debate and in the public Press.

*THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: My Lords, I rejoice to think that the speeches delivered here this evening will find an echo outside, not in England only, but beyond the sea, and not least in Belgium itself. The story of these Congo misdeeds is as extraordinary in its character as it is melancholy in its incidents; and it is a strange *dénouement* that what was originally regarded as a great philanthropic enterprise should a few years afterwards become a source of bewilderment to those of us who have no special opportunity of being conversant with the details of matters of this kind.

In this ignorance of the precise facts as to what is going on wise men always shrink from being ready to lend themselves too readily to some obvious popular outcry about something which may be only imperfectly understood. That danger, real at all times, is increased when we are dealing, not merely with a question of administration in some savage or semi-savage country, but with what may be supposed at all events to concern the administration of a civilised and friendly State. But the story has now been revealed to the world, not by mawkish sentimentalists or by unbalanced enthusiasts who are raising some mere fanatical outcry, but by an investigation carried on by competent men. It has taught us that cautious as we ought to be not to join too readily in an outcry which may often prove to be exaggerated or baseless, we ought, on the other hand, to be cautious lest we too readily put down to fanaticism or prejudice the protests which we sometimes treat too lightly because we think that the facts alleged are too bad to be true. That is the moral we have to remember on one side as well as on the other when we read of what is taking place in the Congo State.

But to-night's speeches will do very real good in this matter. From noble Lords on each side of the House who are in the best possible position to know all the facts, we have had wise and weighty words both as to the present condition of things and as to the possibility of moving in the direction of amendment. I rejoice to hear the voice of those who speak from Foreign Office experience on each side of the House proclaiming that it is clearly at this juncture the duty of Great Britain to use every right which the country possesses, diplomatic as well as moral, and to stand on those rights. We are dealing with broad considerations of principle rather than with legal technicalities. In what we are urging, we are anxious to make it clear that our criticism is directed not in any sense against the Belgian Government, which is not, as a Government, concerned or responsible. We are denouncing offenders, be they many or few, against whom a protest is here raised for wrongs which the whole world has felt to be intolerable, and which must not be allowed to continue. It is the earnest hope of every thoughtful man that the effort will be crowned with success.

*THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My Lords, I rise to emphasise not only to your Lordships, but to those to whom the words of this debate may go, the absolute unanimity which exists on both sides of the House as to this question. There has been no difference of opinion expressed. Noble Lords who have spoken have spoken with authority, and they are all agreed both as to the general course of policy and the steps which the Government are likely to take. We have a great responsibility in this matter, and I also declare that the Powers who signed the Act of Berlin have a great responsibility in common with us. I regret that the appeal made by my noble friend to the other Powers met with but indifferent success, but the policy which dictated that appeal is as much the policy of the present Government as it was the policy of noble Lords opposite when they were in power. I welcome the advance of public opinion in Belgium on this matter, and I think that we are bound to do nothing that would check the free expression of that public opinion. The Belgian people have great interests involved in this matter, and your Lordships may be sure that the course His Majesty's Government will pursue will not be one calculated to promote any jealousy in the Belgian Government, who have little or no responsibility in this matter, except the moral responsibility of being, as it were, indirectly connected with it. But that, my Lords, will not deter His Majesty's Government from pursuing a course which they may think to be right for the purpose of maintaining and discharging their own responsibility.

I am very glad to find that my noble friend opposite feels, as we feel, that we have still in reserve, whenever we may think fit to exercise it, a very valuable power in connection with the appointment of consuls in the Congo. I make no declaration as to the time when a step of that kind may be taken; but I do think it is an excellent thing that there should have gone forth from this House to those in other countries who are interested in this matter, and have grave and serious responsibilities in respect to it, an absolutely unanimous declaration as to policy in this question.

House adjourned at ten minutes before Seven o'clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 3rd July, 1906.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS] (NO STANDING ORDERS NOT PREVIOUSLY INQUIRED INTO APPLICABLE).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, originating in the Lords, and referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders not previously inquired into are applicable, viz.:—Lord Tredegar's Supplemental Estate Bill [Lords].

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

Bury Corporation Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Clacton Urban District Council Bill [Lords] (King's Consent signified). Bill read the third time and passed, with Amendments.

Newport Harbour Commissioners Bill [Lords] (King's Consent signified). Bill read the third time and passed, with Amendments.

Railway Clearing System (Superannuation Fund) Bill [Lords]; Sheffield District Railway Bill [Lords]. Read the third time, and passed, with Amendments.

Great Central and Lancashire, Derbyshire, and East Coast Railways Bill [Lords]; Manchester Churches Bill [Lords]; Newtownards Urban District Council Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Penllwyn Railway and Road Bill [Lords]. As amended, considered; Amendments made; Bill to be read the third time.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill. As amended, considered; read the third time, and passed.

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Devon, etc.) Bill [Lords]; Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesteven, etc.) Bill [Lords]; Education Board Provisional Order Confirmation (London, No. 1) Bill [Lords]. Read a second time, and committed.

Newport Corporation Bill [Lords]; reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

South Lincolnshire Water Bill; reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP I.)

Mr. TOULMIN reported from the Committee on Group I. of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Monday next, at half-past Eleven of the Clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to, Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill, without Amendment.

Metropolitan Railway Bill, with Amendments.

Amendments to Cambrian Railways Bill [Lords]; without Amendment.

HAMMERSMITH, CITY AND NORTH EAST LONDON RAILWAY BILL.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS (Mr. EMMOTT, Oldham) moved that the promoters of the Hammersmith City and North-East London Bill should have leave to suspend the Bill and proceed with it next session. He explained that the reason for this long motion was that the promoters of rival schemes had differed as to the meaning of a letter sent to them by the Board of Trade, with the result that, while the Hammersmith and City Scheme had been brought forward this year, the other scheme had not. At a Conference with the Board of Trade, the Chairman of the Lords Committee and himself, it had been decided that the Bill should not be allowed to proceed this session, and the object of the Motion was simply to save the promoters the expense and trouble of bringing in new plans, petitions, etc.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Promoters of the Hammersmith, City, and North East London Railway Bill which has been introduced into this House in the present session of Parliament, shall have leave to suspend any further proceedings thereon, in order to proceed with the same Bill, if they shall think fit, in the next session of Parliament, provided that notice of their intention to do so be lodged in the Private Bill Office not later than six o'clock on the day prior to the close of the present session, and that all fees due thereon up to that period be paid.

"That the money deposited in accordance with the Standing Orders of this House in respect of such Bill may thereupon be returned to the depositors.

"That the Promoters of such Bill may, on or before the 31st day of December next, deposit in the Private Bill Office an Estimate, signed by the person making the same, of the expense of the undertaking under the Bill, and, previously to the 15th day of January next, deposit a sum not less than five per centum on the amount of such Estimate with the Paymaster-General.

"That such Bill shall be referred to the Examiners, who shall certify whether or not the Promoters have made such deposit with the Paymaster-General, and, upon the Examiners certifying that such deposit has been made, that the proceedings on such Bill shall be *pro forma* only in regard to all other stages through which the same shall have passed in the present session, and no new fees shall be charged in regard to such stages.

"That such Bill shall be deposited in the Private Bill Office not later than six o'clock on or before the third day on which the House shall sit in the next session of Parliament, with a declaration annexed thereto, signed by the agent stating that the Bill is the same in every respect as the Bill at the last stage of the proceedings thereon in this House in the present session.

"That if the money deposited in the present session, as required by Standing Order No. 57, in respect of such Bill has not been withdrawn as provided for by the preceding Resolutions, a certificate of that fact from the proper officer of the court in which such money was deposited shall accompany such declaration, and such Bill shall not be referred to the Examiners:

"That such Bill, indorsed by one of the Clerks in the Private Bill Office as having been duly deposited with such declaration and such certificate, if any, annexed, be laid by one of the Clerks of that Office upon the Table of the House in the next session of Parliament:

"That such Bill, so laid upon the Table, shall be deemed to have been read a first time:

"That the Standing Orders by which the proceedings on Bills are regulated, shall not apply to such Bill in regard to any of the stages through which the same shall have passed during the present session:

"That all Petitions presented in the present session against such Bill shall stand referred to the Committee on the Bill in the next session of Parliament, and that all Notices and grounds of objections to the right of Petitioners to be heard, given in the present session within the time prescribed by the Rules of the Referees relating to such Notices, shall be held applicable in the next session of Parliament:

"That no Petitioners shall be heard before the Committee on such Bill, unless their Petition shall have been presented within the time limited in the present session or in respect of which Standing Order No. 128 has been dispensed with in the present session, or unless their

Petition shall be presented on or before the 12th day of February, 1907."—(*The Chairman of Ways and Means.*)

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) said this was the strongest order he had ever known with regard to a Private Bill. It was a piece of special indulgence, and they ought to be told what precedents there were for it. They were asked to make a Standing Order for the benefit of private promoters.

MR. EMMOTT: It will lapse at the end of the next session.

MR. T. M. HEALY said he was aware of that, but he felt bound to enter a protest, especially as in all his experience no similar indulgence had ever been granted to small tiny Irish Bills which could not afford to pay the tremendous fees imposed, and which had no influence to secure this special treatment.

And, it being Three of the Clock, the Debate stood postponed until To-morrow, by the direction of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

PETITIONS.

BETTING AND GAMBLING.

Petition from Camberwell, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petitions against; From Bickershaw; Bishops Wood (two); Cottingham cum Middleton and Carlton; Hertfordshire; Measham; Newcastle-on-Tyne; Pudsey; and, Twyford; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Petition from Colchester, for alteration; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL (RELIGIOUS TEACHING).

Petitions against alteration of Law; from Clapton Common; Pinchbeck (two); and, Sutton Bonington; to lie upon the Table.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Petition from Depwade, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

LAND VALUES TAXATION, ETC. (SCOTLAND BILL).

Petition from Govan, against; to lie upon the Table.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL [LORDS].

Petitions for alteration; from Blackburn (two); Carnarvon; Kingston (Surrey); and, Leeds; to lie upon the Table.

VAGRANT CHILDREN BILL.

Petition from Depwade, against; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3662 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

UNTENANTED LANDS (IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered March 27th; *Mr. Ginnell*]; to lie upon the Table.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered May 2nd; *Mr. Dillon*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 231.)

PURCHASE INSPECTORS (IRELAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered May 8th; *Mr. Ginnell*]; to lie upon the Table.

COMPANY LAW AMENDMENT COMMITTEE.

Copy presented, of Report of the Company Law Amendment Committee, with Appendix [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE (MONEY ORDERS).

Copy presented, of the Money Order Amendment (No. 1) Regulations, 1906, dated June 22nd, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS (REMUNERATION).

Committee to consider of authorising the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the Remuneration of Agricultural Analysts in pursuance of any Act of the present session to amend the Law with respect to the Sale of Agricultural Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (King's Recommendation signified), To-morrow—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

CORPOREAL PUNISHMENT.

Address for "Return of all sentences of Corporeal Punishment inflicted under 26 and 27 Victoria, c. 44, upon persons convicted of offences under Section 43 of the Larceny Act, 1861, and Section 21 of The Offences against the Person Act, 1861, in England and Wales from the 31st day of December, 1904, to the 31st day of December, 1905 (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 189, of Session 1905.")—(*Mr. Lloyd Morgan.*)

OPIUM (BURMA.)

Address for "Return (1) of the number of licences issued for the sale of opium, and of the revenue derived therefrom in each year since the War of 1885, (*a*) in Upper Burma, (*b*) in the rest of Burma; (2) of the quantity and value of the opium sold in each year during the above period (*a*) in Upper Burma, (*b*) in the rest of Burma; (3) of the population at each census since 1885, (*a*) of Upper Burma, (*b*) of the rest of Burma; (4) of the convictions for crimes (including misdemeanours) in each year since the war of 1885, (*a*) in Upper Burma, (*b*) in the rest of Burma."—(*Mr. Annan Bryce.*)

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND).

Return ordered, "showing for the year ended the 31st day of March 1906 (1) the amount contributed by England, Scotland, and Ireland, respectively, to the Revenue collected by the Imperial officers; (2) the expenditure on English, Scottish, and Irish services met out of such Revenue; and (3) the balances of Revenue contributed by England, Scotland, and Ireland, respectively, which are available for Imperial expenditure (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 230 of Session 1905.")—(*Mr. John O'Connor.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Distances from Galway.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will give the Admiralty correct distances, in knots, from Galway to each of the following places, viz. New York, U.S.A., Portland, U.S.A., Halifax, N.S., Gaspé Que, viâ Cape Race, Gaspé Que, viâ Straits of Bellisle, Blacksod Bay, Moville, Belfast, Dublin, Queenstown, Limerick, Waterford, Glasgow, Barrow, Liverpool, Bristol, Plymouth, Southampton, London, Hull, Newcastle, Leith, and Aberdeen.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The distances in nautical miles, from Galway to the ports named (arranged for convenience alphabetically) are as follows:—

Aberdeen - - -	590
Blacksod Bay - -	100
Belfast - - -	310
Barrow - - -	400
Bristol - - -	420
Dublin - - -	380
Caspé, viâ Bellisle -	2,090
Caspé, viâ Cape Race -	2,170
Glasgow - - -	360
Halifax - - -	2,185
Hull - - - -	805
Liverpool - - -	430
Limerick - - -	103
London - - -	690
Leith - - -	675
Moville - - -	255
Newcastle - - -	720
New York - - -	2,735
Plymouth - - -	390
Queenstown - -	230
Southampton - -	510

Regulations for Motor Omnibuses.

MR. W. F. D. SMITH (Strand, Westminster): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is any limit laid down to the weight and size of the motor omnibus; and whether in considering regulations for governing the future use of this class of vehicles, there will be taken into consideration the great vibration caused by them, especially when fully loaded and proceeding at a considerable pace over an uneven surface.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) Limits as to the weight, length, height, and width of motor omnibuses have been laid down in a regulation which is now under the consideration of a Select Committee of the House of Commons, who will, no doubt, in their Report, deal with the vibration caused by these vehicles.

Salaries of Macedonian Officials.

MR. SILCOCK (Somersetshire, Wells): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the salaries of officials in Macedonia have been paid to date and the deficit for the month of May been made good by the Porte as provided in the Réglement; and, if not, what steps will be taken by the Powers to insure such payment.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The Answer to the first and second parts of this Question is in the negative. In regard to the third part, the representatives of the Powers are urging the Porte to lose no time in finding the requisite money to make good the deficit on the Macedonian budget.

Chinese Customs Officials.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can make any further statement to the House in regard to the Imperial edict of the Chinese Government, appointing Chinese officials at the head of the Imperial Maritime Customs; and whether he can lay upon the Table the correspondence with the Chinese Government on this subject before the Foreign Office Vote is taken on Thursday next.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) As stated in Answer to a Question on June 12th, † His Majesty's Government regard the note of the Wai-wu-pu, respecting the Customs question, as satisfactory, and they are awaiting the issue of instructions to Sir R. Hart which, as I said yesterday in reply to a Question on the same subject, will, it is understood, be in accordance with the assurances given to His Majesty's Government. As soon as the text of the note referred to is received it will be presented to Parliament.

Boring for Oil in Lagos.

MR. BRODIE (Surrey, Reigate): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the fact that oil has been found in the bitumen fields of Lagos on the West Coast of Africa; whether he has taken or will take steps to ensure that the local Colonial authorities are aware of the danger of allowing inexperienced persons to bore in oil-bearing strata, especially where water exists; and whether he can see his way to endeavour to secure the closest restrictions upon the method of boring, in order to avoid injury to the oil fields and consequent loss of revenue to the Colony.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The information which has reached the Colonial Office is to the effect that no actual discovery of oil has been made, although it is possible that it may be found. The attention of the local Government will be called to the danger referred to, and any necessary precautions will be taken.

Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce's claim for Rent.

MR. SCOTT (Ashton-under Lyne): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is aware that the late Colonial Secretary wrote that Mendelssohn and Bruce's claim for rent, &c., amounting to £9,525, could not in any way be entertained, but that they were entitled to receive all the profits made, and that it was only after the discovery of profit made (July, 1905) that he subsequently wrote (October, 1905) that a proper course was to pay a reasonable rental for the premises; and will he state why, after writing that the claim for rent, &c., could not in any way be entertained he afterwards came to a contrary conclusion.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) Mr. Lyttelton informed Sir J. Puleston, in March, 1905, that he considered that the claim of Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce for rent should not be admitted, but that they were entitled to receive a refund of profits, and in December, 1905, he informed the same gentleman that Lord Selborne had very carefully gone into the matter and had come to the conclusion that the proper course was to pay Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce a reasonable rental for their premises, as had been done in other cases. Mr. Lyttelton pointed out that Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce's original claim was for rent, and stated that Lord Selborne was convinced that the legislature of the Colony would unhesitatingly reject any proposal to pay on the basis of profits; the reasons for this conviction being that the profits appeared to be far in excess of what the firm, which has never been able to declare a dividend, could have earned had they had the free use of their premises, and that those profits appeared to exceed greatly the rental they could reasonably have expected to receive during the period that their premises were occupied by the administration.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 816.

Post Office Savings Bank Accounts.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he can give the number of Savings Bank depositors' accounts in Great Britain and Ireland respectively on which no transactions have taken place (beyond the recording of interest due), or deposit books forwarded for examination, for five, ten, fifteen, and twenty years respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The information for which the hon. Member asks could not be given without the expenditure of a very large amount of labour, which I do not think would be justified.

Post Office Savings Bank—Publication of list of Unclaimed Balance.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Postmaster-General whether a list of unclaimed balances to the credit of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank who have not forwarded their books for examination, or deposited or withdrawn money for a certain number of years, has ever been published; and, if not, whether, in view of the amount of Savings Bank money which, under the present system, can never be claimed, he will in future cause such list to be periodically published.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) A list of the nature suggested has never been published. Its compilation would involve a very large amount of work and considerable expense. Its publication would be certain to give rise to a large number of erroneous and fictitious claims, and I am of opinion that it would not be found to be sufficiently useful to counterbalance these disadvantages.

Post Office Savings Bank—Index of Depositors.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that in the case of a savings bank depositor who loses his deposit book, and is unable to give particulars of the book or date of a recent transaction to the Savings Bank Department, such depositor cannot withdraw his money owing to the fact that no index of depositors' names is kept in the Savings Bank Department; and whether he will arrange to have such an index prepared.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that the representative of a deceased person, supposed to have been a savings bank depositor, who is unable to give particulars of deceased's deposit book, cannot withdraw the money which may be legally due to him owing to the fact that no index of names is kept in the Savings Bank Department; and whether he can state how many such cases have occurred in Great Britain and Ireland respectively during the last five years, and in how many cases have inquirers been informed by the Savings Bank Department that, owing to the fact that no index of depositors' names is kept, no information can be given.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I may perhaps Answer these Questions together. The absence of an alphabetical list of depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank is not found to give rise to the difficulties which the hon. Member indicates, as depositors or their representatives are almost always able to furnish sufficient information to enable the department to trace accounts about which inquiry is made. The preparation of a general index would be an undertaking of great magnitude, as it would have to contain upwards of 10,000,000 entries; and its utility would not be sufficient to justify the expense that would be involved.

Telegraphic Facilities in Rural Districts.

MR. R. L. HARMSWORTH (Caithness-shire): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he will consider the possibility of giving greater facilities for the despatch of telegrams in rural districts remote from telegraph offices by permitting them to be accepted at the nearest sub-post office, and to be taken from there to the most convenient telegraph office by the local post runners at the usual mileage rate.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) A prepaid telegram may be handed to a rural postman on his way to a telegraph office, or may be posted anywhere, to be sent on by the next collection to the nearest convenient telegraph office. No mileage rate is charged for this service. I am afraid it would be impracticable to arrange that messengers should be available at a country sub-office at any time to carry telegrams at mileage rate to a telegraph office.

Merchant Shipping Statutory Rules and Orders.

MR. J. D. WHITE (Dumbartonshire): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the fact that many of the statutory rules and orders relating to merchant shipping are those made more than twelve years ago under Acts which have now been repealed and consolidated by The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894; and whether he will consider the advisability of having this subordinate legislation properly revised and co-ordinated under that Act before the close of the present year.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) I am aware of the fact that several statutory rules and orders relating to merchant shipping made before 1894 are still in force. These rules and orders were expressly saved by Section 745 (1) (*a*) of The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, and continue as if they had been made under that Act. As the rules or orders become obsolete, or require amendment, they are replaced by new ones made under the Act of 1894. This process is continually going on, and if the hon. Member will inform me of any rules or orders that he thinks need revision, the question of revising them shall be considered.

Compulsory Retirement of Civil Service Writers.

SIR G. KEKEWICH (Exeter): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the old writers, not on the establishment of the Civil Service, are to be compulsorily retired in January next; what is the number of such writers, and in what Government offices they are serving; what is approximately their average age, and the average length of their service; and whether the total provision to be made for them in lieu of pensions is a gratuity of £100 to each.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I am not in possession of the particulars asked for in the Question, and I could not obtain them without considerable trouble. I think it, however, sufficient to say that the Treasury circulars issued in December, 1904, on the final closing of the register of copyists, suggested that the remaining copyists then under sixty should be retired at sixty-five, subject to the discretion of heads of departments to continue them, if fully efficient, year by year up to the age of seventy, and that copyists then over sixty should be compulsorily retired at the age of seventy, subject, in the case of those over sixty-eight, to two years' notice. The gratuity referred to is not in lieu of pension; these copyists were never qualified for pension under the Superannuation Acts, and under the terms of their original engagement they had no right even to gratuity on retirement, which was first granted by the Treasury minute of December, 1886. I may add that since the Treasury minute referred to copyists have always been liable to be retired with a gratuity calculated as prescribed by that minute and not exceeding £100.

Flogging for Breaches of Prison Discipline.

MR. LLOYD MORGAN (Carmarthenshire, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will state the number of cases in which prisoners have been flogged for breaches of prison discipline during each year from 1900 to 1905; will he state the prison where each sentence was carried out; and whether the medical officer in any instance interfered with the carrying out of the sentence.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) Corporeal punishment can only be imposed in prison for mutiny, incitement to mutiny, and gross personal violence to prison officers. The following statement shows the number of cases of corporeal punishment inflicted in local and convict prisons during each of the years ended

March 31st, 1901 to 1905, and the number of instances in which the medical officer interfered with the carrying out of the sentence:—

	Year ended 31st March.				
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Local Prisons:					
Birmingham	1	3	4	2	2
Bristol	—	—	1	—	—
Cambridge	—	—	—	1	—
Canterbury	—	—	1	—	—
Chelmsford	1	—	—	1	—
Devizes	—	1	—	—	1
Durham	—	—	1	1	—
Exeter	—	2	1	1	2
Hull	—	—	—	1	—
Ipswich	—	—	—	3	—
Knutsford	—	2	—	—	1
Leicester	—	1	—	—	—
Lewes	1	1	1	2	—
Liverpool	—	1	—	3	—
Maidstone	2	1	1	1	—
Manchester	—	—	1	1	—
Newcastle	—	—	1	—	—
Northallerton	1	—	—	—	—
Norwich	—	—	1	—	—
Nottingham	—	1	—	—	—
Pentonville	5	2	—	1	2
Preston	—	2	1	1	1
Reading	—	—	1	—	—
Ruthin	—	1	—	—	—
St. Albans	—	—	—	1	—
Shepton Mallett	—	—	—	1	—
Stafford	1	—	—	—	2
Wakefield	1	2	3	1	—
Wandsworth	2	3	8	1	—
Warwick	—	—	—	2	—
Worcester	—	1	—	—	—
Wormwood Scrubbs	8	1	1	—	4
Convict prisons:					
Borstal	6	—	2	2	—
Dartmoor	3	9	11	4	7
Portland	10	11	5	4	1
Parkhurst	—	1	2	5	—
Total	42	46	47	40	23

Part of the punishment was remitted by the medical officer in—

1900–1 in two cases (one at Birmingham, one at Borstal).
1901–2 in one case (Portland).
1902–3 in one case (Birmingham).
1903–4 in two cases (one at Parkhurst, one at St. Albans).
1904–5 in two cases (one at Exeter, one at Portland).

Voters at School Board Election—Areas without provided Schools.

SIR E. BOYLE (Taunton): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he will publish a Return showing the percentages of voters who recorded their votes at the last school board elections held in urban areas, with a population of 5,000 and upwards; and whether he will also publish a Return, naming the urban areas with a population of 5,000 and upwards, in which there are no provided schools, or less accommodation in provided schools than would suffice to meet the requirements of 20 per cent. of the school children in such places.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I have no information as to the matter referred to in the first paragraph of the Question. As regards the second paragraph, I will lay upon the Table at the end of the week a list of the areas referred to. I am unable to give any figures or facts as to the third paragraph of the Question, nor do I see that any trustworthy information could be obtained from any such figures, if they were available.

Revised Programme for Irish National School Teachers.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Commissioners of National Education stated on the introduction of the revised programme that the efficient instruction of six distinct standards by one teacher was, under the results system, not practicable; and, if so, whether, in the case of such teachers, otherwise eligible, service under these conditions will constitute any barrier to increments or promotion under the present system.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Commissioners of National Education inform me that upon the introduction of their revised programme in 1900 they stated that, as in most small schools the staff consists of a principal teacher only, or of a principal teacher and monitor, it is not practicable to teach separately, and at the same time efficiently, six or even fewer distinct standards. The Commissioners, therefore, announced that they would sanction in small schools the collective instruction in the same subject of two or more standards as one division. The Commissioners inform me that since that time they have issued special programmes suitable for collective instruction in small schools. It is not, therefore, the case that service under the conditions mentioned constitutes a bar to the granting of increments or promotion to teachers otherwise eligible.

Irish Fish Curing Industry.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will consider the advisability of establishing a brand for Irish cured fish similar to that existing in Scotland; whether he will increase the grants to enable the Irish fishing industry to be improved; and whether he will arrange that the breeding places shall be protected by utiltising gunboats and coastguards to prevent illegal trawling.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) In reply to the first part of the Question, I beg to refer to my Answer to the Question put by the hon. Member for South Kerry on June 27th.† The hon. Member will see that the question of establishing a brand for Irish cured fish has been fully considered, and that it has not been thought desirable to adopt a brand. The question of an increased grant for the improvement of the fishing industry can be better considered after the Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Working of the Department has been received, and it is possible that the fishing industry in some of its aspects may come within the purview of the inquiry into the problem of congestion which it is proposed to conduct. The breeding places of fish where illegal trawling would be likely to take place are effectively patrolled by the vessels "Helga" and "Granuaile," belonging to the Irish Government, and the coastguard give assistance by reporting cases of illegal fishing which come under their notice. I dealt with the matter of assistance by gunboats in my reply to the Question of the hon. Member for East Waterford on June 26th.‡

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† See Col. 949.

‡ See Col. 790.

Attendance of Mr. Vesey Fitzgerald at Petty Session Courts.

Mr. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Vesey Fitzgerald, resident magistrate, Portarlington, is in such a low state of health as to be unable to attend regularly to his duties; can he say how many Petty Session Courts have been held during the past two years in Mountmellick, Rathangan, Clonbullogue, and Stradbally, respectively, and how many of those Mr. Fitzgerald attended; and what course he proposes taking to supply the public requirements of the district.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The resident magistrate referred to reports that he is not in a low state of health, and the records show that during the past two years he has been absent from duty on account of indisposition on twelve days only. Petty sessions are held fortnightly at Mountmellick and Stradbally, and monthly at Rathangan and Clonbullogue. During the past two years the resident magistrate did not attend petty sessions at Mountmellick or Rathangan, but he attended at Clonbullogue on two, and at Stradbally on five occasions. Petty sessions at Mountmellick, Rathangan, and Clonbullogue fall on days fixed for other petty sessions in the district, at which the resident magistrate's attendance is more desirable. As regards Stradbally, the resident magistrate reports that, whenever he has not attended petty sessions at that place, there was no case for hearing, or the cases were of a trivial nature only. There is, I am informed, a good attendance of local justices at each of the four petty sessions named, and public requirements have not suffered.

Sales on the Wilson Estate—Action of Mr. Patrick Duff.

Mr. SULLIVAN (Westmeath, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Patrick Duff, a middleman on the Wilson estate in the parish of Drumraney, county Westmeath, bought out his land on which there was a large portion of cut away bog and a number of sub-tenants; that the agent of the estate entered into an arrangement with Mr. Duff, by which he divided five acres of the bog amongst the tenants, to be included in their holdings; and that then the agent and Mr. Duff fixed the terms of the purchase between them without any consultation with the tenants, leaving them solely at his mercy; and whether, seeing that Mr. Duff now refuses to sell to the tenants, and insists on the tenants paying the full amount of their rackrents without any abatement, he will bring this case before the Estates Commissioners in order that they may deal with it satisfactorily to the tenants.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that the agreement for purchase signed by Patrick Duff shows that there are upon his holding four sub-tenants, two of whom hold at judicial rents. The Commissioners have no knowledge of the remaining facts stated in the Question. The estate, however, will shortly be inspected, and the Commissioners will direct the special attention of their inspector to the holding mentioned and the sub-tenancies thereon, and also to the question of turbary.

Hours of Duty of Irish Prison Warders.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, if, having regard to the physical and mental strain of warders in the Irish prisons service owing to the monotonous nature of their duties, he would consider the advisability of having the summer time table altered so as to lessen the number of hours' duty per day; and if he will inquire if there was general discontent among the warders in the Irish prisons service at the passing over of men of long service in connection with recent appointments and promotions; and if it is the custom that court and escort duty is given exclusively to one officer in the larger prisons in Ireland instead of being given to all equally qualified officers in turn.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the General Prisons Board that it would not be possible to lessen the number of hours of duty per day for prison warders, either in winter or summer, without a considerable increase of staff. There is, I am informed, no general discontent among the warders at the passing over of men of long service, although individuals are, no doubt, sometimes disappointed. It is not the custom that court and escort duty is given exclusively to one officer in the larger prisons in Ireland, nor, on the other hand, is such duty assigned to all equally qualified officers in turn. It is a question for the governor to decide in each instance who is the most suitable officer to send on such duty, which does not involve either relaxation or emolument.

Sale of the Estates of the Commissioners of Endowed Schools.

MR. DELANY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have been able to identify the estate of the Commissioners of Endowed Schools, Ireland, situate at Cappaloughlin, Clonard, Mountrath, Queen's County; whether agreements have been signed by the tenants thereon for purchase of their holdings; whether he can say if a minority of the tenants have withdrawn from the sale; and will their complaints be inquired into before the sale is sanctioned.

(*Answered by Mr. Bryce.*) I am informed by the Commissioners of Education in Ireland that the majority of their tenants at Cappaloughlin have expressed their willingness to purchase on the terms offered by the Commissioners, but a minority have so far not agreed to the terms. No agreements for purchase have yet been signed, and consequently the matter has not come before the Estates Commissioners. If, however, proceedings for the sale of part only of the estate should come before the Estates Commissioners, they inform me that, before sanctioning the advances applied for, they will make inquiries as to the grounds upon which part of the estate is excluded from the sale.

Raising of Wages at Waltham Abbey and Enfield Lock.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has yet sufficiently considered the question of raising the wages of the labourers at Waltham Abbey and Enfield Lock from 21s. to 23s. 6d., so as to bring them into conformity with the rate existing elsewhere, and can he make a definite statement on the subject.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The question of raising the minimum wage at these factories from 21s. to 23s. a week (not 23s. 6d. as stated in the Question) has necessitated a somewhat detailed investigation, but it is hoped that it may be possible to announce the decision shortly.

Free Postage for Members of Parliament.

MR. FIELD: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will consider the expediency of arranging that all correspondence sent from the House of Commons by Members who are in attendance shall be free; and whether he is aware that this privilege exists in the Colonies.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) At the beginning of the session I informed the hon. Member that I could not see my way to act upon his suggestion, and I have nothing to add to that statement.

Free Railway Passes for Irish Members.

MR. FIELD: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will consider the expediency of arranging with the carrying companies concerned the arrangement of free travelling to and from the House of Commons to such Irish Members as may desire to do so; and whether he is aware that Members of the Legislature in the Colonies have free passes on all railways in their colony.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) No, Sir, I do not see my way to do what the hon. Member suggests. I hope, if ever the privilege should be granted. it will not be reserved exclusively for the benefit of Irish Members.

Education Bill—Interval between Committee and Report Stages.

MR. TALBOT (Oxford University): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, considering the important Amendments made in the Education Bill, at the instance of the Minister for Education himself, he will consider the advisability of giving a longer interval between the conclusion of the Committee stage and the Report stage of the Bill, in order to give a longer opportunity for giving notice of Amendments upon the latter stage.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) Unless the Session is to be prolonged I do not see how the interval between the Committee stage and the Report stage can be extended. The interval of five days is the same as that accorded by the previous Government for the Education Bill of 1902.

Government facilities for passing Local Authorities (Qualification of Women) Bill.

MR. BRODIE: To ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact that the Bill now before the House, entitled Local Authorities (Qualification of Women) Bill, passed its Second Reading in the last Parliament by an almost unanimous vote, and has support from all parties in the present Parliament, he will by suspension of the eleven o'clock rule, or by arranging a Saturday sitting, or in some other way, afford facilities which will give the Bill an opportunity of passing through the present Session, so that women may be qualified to serve on county, borough, and metropolitan borough councils, before the triennial county council elections next March.

(*Answered by Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) The Government are very favourably disposed to this Bill, and if an opportunity offers of facilitating its progress they will gladly avail themselves of it.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Slavery in the Zanzibar Protectorate.

*MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can state what steps have been taken to secure the abolition of the legal status of slavery on the mainland of the Zanzibar Protectorate.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): I would refer the hon. Member to the Answer which I gave on May 30th to a similar Question by the hon. and gallant Member for West Dorset.†

East African Timber Concession and Railway.

*MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will lay upon the Table of the House all information connected with a large timber concession in East Africa; also the terms on which the construction of a railway in connection with the said concession has been arranged, and the financial responsibility of the Government direct for the same.

MR. CHURCHILL: The timber concession referred to by the hon. Member is no doubt the leases of forests at the Eldama Ravine to Messrs. Lingham and Grogan, particulars of which are given on page 18 of the Return of Grants of Land in the East Africa Protectorate Command Paper 2902 of 1906. The question of the construction of a railway in connection with this concession is under discussion, but no agreement has yet been arrived at on the subject.

*MR. CATHCART WASON asked if there would be any financial responsibility upon this country.

MR. CHURCHILL said the railway would have to be made either from funds supplied from this country or by some private body in return for certain land concessions; but no decision had been arrived at.

*MR. CATHCART WASON: But have the Government undertaken any financial responsibility in connection with this railway?

MR. CHURCHILL said the railway itself was in a much too nebulous condition for him to say anything more. He believed the railway would be a useful and paying branch of the Uganda Railway, but no plan had yet been decided upon. No proposal had been made that the Government should construct the railway. Proposals had been made by private firms, but not decided upon.

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† See (4) *Debates* clviii., 388.

*MR. CATHCART WASON: The concession is absolutely useless without the railway.

MR. ASHLEY: Will not this concession and railway be very useful in opening up East Africa?

MR. CHURCHILL: I think it is important for the development of East Africa, full of ripe possibilities, that the railway should be provided.

African Forests and Rainfall.

*MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is aware of the limited quantity of timber in East Africa, and the effect that a material diminution of the same would have on the rainfall and the climate; and whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State is fully aware of the importance of forest conservation in the East African Protectorate, and is arranging to send an expert to report on the question at an early date.

*MR. CATHCART WASON: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that this timber is more wanted in East Africa itself than in South Africa?

MR. CHURCHILL was understood to say that as the timber would be carried over the Uganda Railway he did not see that it was the duty of the Government to object to its going to South Africa.

Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce's Claim against the Transvaal Government.

MR. SCOTT (Ashton-under-Lyne): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is aware that Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce's claim, rendered in December 1901, for the use of their printing plant and machinery (*Johannesburg Standard and Diggers' News*), at Rissik Street, and of their jobbing and printing plant, machinery and premises in Harrison Street, Johannesburg, amounted to the sum of £9,525, full details of every item being given, and that the Transvaal authorities reduced this claim to £4,895 as equitable compensation; and can he state how this reduction was arrived at, and what were the reasons given for so reducing it.

MR. CHURCHILL: I am aware of the account from which the hon. Member is quoting: the sum of £4,895 is set down in it as *estimated* equitable compensation. I am not in a position to state how the reduction was arrived at.

MR. SCOTT: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is aware that the equitable compensation of £4,895 credited to Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce by the Transvaal authorities in 1902 remains unpaid at the present time, and that, notwithstanding the delay and loss of interest for five years, the Colonial Office, acting on behalf of the Transvaal Government, now offers Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce a sum of £2,500 in full settlement of all demands; and can he inform the House why such an offer was made as an act of grace.

MR. CHURCHILL: The sum of £4,895 quoted in the hon. Member's question appears to have been set down in the account as an estimated amount. The sum of £2,500 which has been offered has been arrived at after careful examination locally, and the offer has been made as an act of grace because the Transvaal Government recognises no legal liability in the matter.

MR. SCOTT: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, if he is aware that the Harrison Street premises and jobbing and printing works and plant, belonging to Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce, and seized by the military authorities and used by them for a period of sixteen months, were let on lease to Messrs. Matthews and Walker of Johannesburg, for several years before and during the war, at a monthly rental of £250, and that since the war these premises have been unlet owing to the fact that the plant and machinery when handed over were in such bad condition as to render them practically useless, and that prior to the war the plant and machinery were valued at £18,000, and are now worth barely £2,000; and whether, when again bringing this matter to the notice of the Governor of the Transvaal, in order that Messrs. Mendelssohn and Bruce's reasoned protest may receive fair consideration, due emphasis will be given to the damage done to the plant and machinery during the time it was in possession of the military authorities, having regard to the fact that it was in excellent condition when taken possession of by them and is now practically useless.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State is not prepared to admit the accuracy of the statements made in this Question, which are matters of controversy; but the points raised will be brought to the notice of the Governor.

Ceylon Pearl Fisheries.

MR. COWAN (Surrey, Guildford): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether all material facts connected with the negotiations for the lease of the Ceylon pearl fisheries, and the actual terms thereof, can be made public, so that the fullest information may be at the disposal of the House.

MR. CHURCHILL: I do not know of any material facts which are not included in the Blue-book which has already been laid before the House.

MR. RIDSDALE: May I ask if the prospectus of the Ceylon Company of Pearl Fishers was before the Colonial Office at the time it sanctioned the lease?

MR. CHURCHILL: I must ask for notice of that.

MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire): Seeing that there is a good deal of confidential correspondence in connection with this case, may I ask how it was that while the negotiations were proceeding, a group of South African financiers who held a large number of shares——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. Notice should be given of the Question, as the facts could not be within the knowledge of the Under-Secretary, they having occurred before he was at the Colonial Office.

*SIR J. JARDINE (Roxburghshire) asked whether the late Colonial Secretary was aware that during the progress of the negotiations the Gulf syndicate sold the concession to the Ceylon Company of Pearl Fishers at a profit of about £11,000.

MR. CHURCHILL said he was not aware, and he regretted that the rules of the House precluded the hon. Member from asking the late Colonial Secretary, who was wholly responsible for the arrangement.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): He is always absent when the Question comes on.

*SIR J. JARDINE asked if the Under-Secretary was aware that the shares of the Ceylon Company of Pearl Fishers were now being sold at a premium of 1,000 per cent.

MR. CHURCHILL said he believed it was the case.

Indian Execution.

MR. BRIGHT (Oldham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India, whether he has considered the explanation of the authorities of the execution of an Indian prisoner, who had appealed to the Governor-General, before there was time for the answer to the appeal to be received; and whether he proposes to take any action with regard to the conduct of the Lieutenant-Governor who was responsible for this incident.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose, Burghs): I am in communication with the Government of India, and hope shortly to be in a position to make a detailed statement on this subject.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): Can the right hon. Gentleman give any indication of the date when we may expect the statement?

MR. MORLEY: No one knows better than the hon. Member that communications with the Government of India take time. No time, however, is being lost.

Martial Law in Eastern Bengal.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that a form of martial law exists in the Mymensing district in the fact that in the business centre, or town of Muktagacha, a proclamation has been issued forbidding more than three persons to walk together in the streets without a licence; and what steps he intends taking to remove this infringement of the liberty of the people in the district named.

MR. MORLEY: I have already stated, in answer to a Question on the 21st ult.,† that in Eastern Bengal the only restrictions now in force are those imposed by the ordinary law; and that the recent rioting may have rendered special precautions necessary, within the limits allowed by the law. As to the proclamation mentioned in the Question, I have no information; but I have telegraphed inquiry.

SIR H. COTTON: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the rioting referred to took place fifty miles from Muktagacha?

MR. MORLEY: I am not aware of it.

MR. O'GRADY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that, in the riot cases now being tried at Mymensing, the magistrates and the Lieutenant-Governor are allowing the police to conduct the cases and are refusing counsel, and that the aggrieved parties have telegraphed to the Viceroy, who declined to interfere; and whether, in view of the possibilty of an injustice being done arising out of this departure from legal practices and precedent, he will make a personal inquiry into the matter, and take steps to assure the people of the new province that His Majesty's Government intend to insist upon the right of fair trial.

MR. MORLEY: I am not aware of the circumstances stated in the Question, but I have telegraphed for information on the subject.

MR. O'GRADY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that all this trouble is the work of a certain official, responsible for the government of the district, done on his own authority.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): Are there not regular courts original and appellate, is there not law and justice in Eastern Bengal, as in other Indian provinces?

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): Is not the poor Indian ryot utterly unable to pay legal costs?

MR. MORLEY repeated that he was awaiting the Report.

Alleged Turkish Outrages in Montenegro.

MR. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can give any information as to the recent outrages by Turks at Baritse and other villages on the Montenegrin frontier.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): No such information has reached His Majesty's Government, but they have received a Report from His Majesty's Vice-Consul at Uskub, dated May 25th, to the effect that disturbances had broken out in the Kaza of Kalashin, on the Montenegrin frontier, caused by an attack on a body of Nizams and Albanians by Servians, and that energetic measures were being taken by the Turkish Government to restore order.

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† See Col. 349.

Abyssinian Railway.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in any agreements arrived at between Great Britain and other Powers, with reference to the Abyssinian Railway, he proposes to insure that there shall be equality of economic treatment for the goods of all nations carried by the railway, and that there shall be the same equal treatment at the port of Jibuti and on the frontier of Abyssinia.

SIR EDWARD GREY: His Majesty's Government are fully alive to the importance of ensuring equality of treatment on the railway for the commerce of all nations.

MR. ASHLEY: The right hon. Baronet has said nothing as to the last part of my Question.

SIR EDWARD GREY: Negotiations are still proceeding as to Jibuti and the Abyssinian frontier, and I can make no further statement now.

Turco-Egyptian Frontier.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what progress has been made by the Joint Commission in the delimitation of the Turco-Egyptian frontier.

SIR EDWARD GREY: We understand that satisfactory progress is being made on the spot with the delimitation of the Turco-Egyptian frontier, and it is hoped that the map of the frontier will be finished soon.

Denshawi Trial.

MR. BELLOC (Salford, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether a public and full record exists of the evidence given during the recent trial at Denshawi; and, if so, where it may be consulted or whence a copy may be obtained.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I have asked to be supplied with the evidence given before the Special Tribunal, but it will be necessary to have it translated before it can be laid before the House.

Murder of Missionaries at Nan-Chang.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the British claim against the Chinese Government, in connection with the murder of missionaries at Nan-chang, has been settled; and, if so, whether the terms are such as will tend to safeguard the lives and property of British missionaries in China in the future.

SIR EDWARD GREY: Terms of settlement have been arrived at as to the punishments of the responsible officials and rioters which are considered satisfactory, and His Majesty's Chargé d' Affaires has been authorised to inform the Chinese Government that the matter will be regarded as settled conditionally on the payment of an indemnity to the surviving child of Mr. and Mrs. Kingham, and for the property destroyed, and of rewards for Chinese officials who assisted British missionaries. It is hoped that the punishments given will be a safeguard against such catastrophes in future.

Cretan Administration.

MR. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the International Commission, constituted in February last to examine the causes of the disturbances during last year in Crete, and to report on reforms to be introduced into the Cretan *regime* has formulated the results of its inquiries; and whether it may be expected that an announcement will be made shortly in regard to the future government of the island.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The International Commission made extensive recommendations as to administrative and economic reforms which are likely to receive the assent of the Powers concerned at an early date. When they are agreed on the steps to be taken the result will of course be made known.

Mr. LONSDALE: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that these delays are likely to lead to further disturbances? Crete has been for a long time in a more or less disturbed state.

Sir EDWARD GREY: The Government are quite aware of that, and the discussions are proceeding with a view to arriving at a decision as soon as possible.

Local Commissioners of Taxes.

Mr. SEARS (Cheltenham): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will state the legal or other authority under which the Board of Inland Revenue controls the Local Commissioners of Taxes and their clerks, including also the parochial assessors and collectors which the commissioners have power to appoint; and what remedy the board have in case of neglect, delay, or disregard of instructions.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.): The relations between the Board of Inland Revenue on the one hand, and the Local Commissioners of Taxes on the other, are governed generally by the Income Tax Act, 1842, and the Board's relations to the clerks and other officers of the Commissioners by the Taxes Management Act of 1880. Cases of neglect, delay, or disregard of instructions are not under the provisions of these Acts applicable to the particular circumstances of each case.

Tax Collection.

Mr. SEARS: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that assessment forms are issued to the public from the parochial assessor's office, notice of assessment from the office of the clerk to the local commissioners, and notice to pay from the office of the parochial collector; that the collector of Inland Revenue issues his pay notices from the Government office; that from the office of surveyor of taxes communications regularly pass between him and the public, and from the same office uncollected arrears left by the parochial collector are dealt with; will he consider whether it is necessary to have in the same city or town five distinct offices for dealing with taxpayers; and will he cause inquiries to be made of outside officials as to the confusion which results from this multiplication of offices.

Mr. ASQUITH: The facts are substantially as represented in the first eight lines of the Question. The Board of Inland Revenue consider that the present arrangements are the most convenient and appropriate for the proper discharge of the duties to be undertaken, and they are not themselves aware of any confusion that results from them.

Fictitious Brandy.

Mr. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will state what precautions the Customs take to enforce the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Act as regards brandy; what check there is against the use of false trade descriptions; if any test is applied, and what is it, to ascertain whether spirit entered as brandy is derived from the grape or from materials other than the grape; how many gallons of spirit imported from Hamburg were admitted to entry last year as brandy; was such spirit the distillate of the grape; how many seizures were made last year of brandy to which a false trade description was applied under the Merchandise Marks Act; what was the quantity of brandy as per Customs entries from Norway, Holland, and Denmark for the last ten years; and is it the case that at London Docks any spirit, whatever its origin, shipped as brandy is so entered by Customs and dock officials.

Mr. ASQUITH: The means taken by the officers of Customs to prevent imported spirits being falsely described as brandy, in contravention of the Merchandise Marks Acts, are to examine all spirits entered as brandy, and, if such do not appear to be the brandy of commerce, to submit samples to the departmental analyst. No test is applied to ascertain whether spirit entered as brandy is derived from the grape or from other materials, but tests are applied to ascertain whether such spirits contain those constituents other than spirit which characterise the brandy of commerce. If such constituents are not present the spirit is not allowed to be entered as brandy. Particulars of the quantity of brandy imported from Hamburg are not available, the records of imports being shown under countries only. During the year 1905 two consignments of spirits described as brandy were seized under the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887, for having a false trade description applied. The quantity of brandy imported into the United Kingdom from Norway, Holland, and Denmark during the last ten years was as follows:—

Years.	Norway.		Netherlands.		Denmark.	
		Proof Gallons.		Proof Gallons.		Proof Gallons.
1896		3,032		34,012		9,481
1897		66		35,756		26,442
1898		2		22,066		11,142
1899		641		24,330		23,053
1900		6,363		22,446		2,824
1901		3,342		17,410		1,186
1902		3,164		14,521		1,688
1903		4,599		8,276		32
1904	Imported	294	Imported	7,033	Imported	32
	Consigned	292	Consigned	3,564	Consigned	32
190	Imported	1,928	Imported	5,947	Imported	61
	Consigned	1,928	Consigned	2,320	Consigned	61

As will be seen form what is stated above, it is not the case that at the London Docks or elsewhere any spirit, whatever its origin, shipped as brandy is allowed by the Customs Department to be entered as brandy. The Board have no official knowledge as to the action of the dock officials with regard to such spirits.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Why allow brandy to be imported from countries in which notoriously no grapes are grown?

MR. ASQUITH: It may be in course of transit from elsewhere.

Motor 'Bus Accidents in London Streets.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been directed to the death of Mr. William Tongue and the injury of the Reverend Alfred Littlehales through a collision between two motor omnibuses in the Edgware Road on Wednesday, June 20th; if he is aware that these vehicles are constantly causing injury to the persons and property of the public; and if he can see his way to revise all existing licences in respect of these vehicles to insure that they are properly constructed and driven by competent and experienced men, who are not paid by the journey.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): My attention has been called to the unfortunate occurrence referred to. The verdict at the inquest on Mr. Tongue was "accidental death." Every precaution within the powers of the police is taken to secure that motor omnibuses are properly constructed and that they are driven by competent men. In the event of a motor 'bus becoming unfit for use, or of an offence being committed by the driver, the licences come under consideration, and I see no reason for a general revision, even if it were within my power to require it. The police have no authority to prescribe the terms of employment of the drivers.

MR. MYER (Lambeth, N.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that there are four or five competing companies on that road, who are always "nursing" and racing, and will he instruct the police to put a stop to it?

*MR. GLADSTONE: The police have general instructions as to this.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) asked if the Home Secretary was aware that the danger from this traffic was on the increase.

*MR. GLADSTONE replied that no doubt every Member of the House had observed the undue speed of these cars, but the question was under the consideration of the Select Committee and the Royal Commission, and until these two bodies reported they would not have full information on the subject.

MR. FLYNN: Can the Home Office do nothing until a Cabinet Minister has been killed?

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am not sure we can do anything even then.

The Charlottenburg Exhibition.

MR. ALDEN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he is aware of the fact that the German Government has established and maintains at Charlottenburg a permanent exhibition of appliances designed to prevent accidents and to safeguard the welfare of workmen; that similar institutions exist at Munich, Amsterdam, Brussels, and Zurich; and whether, under the circumstances, he will consider the advisability of establishing or assisting in the formation of a similar institution in England.

*MR. GLADSTONE: I am aware that several institutions of the kind mentioned in the Question are in existence on the Continent. The question of establishing a similar institution in this country has been several times discussed, but there are considerable practical difficulties to be overcome. I may say that a good deal of useful work has been done in this country in another way to spread information as to the best methods of fencing and the like, that is, by the publication of special reports on particular classes of machinery—the reports on Cotton Cloth Machinery and Hoists and Teagles may be specially mentioned. I am now making further inquiries and I will communicate with my hon. friend.

Steel Trade Rings.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state the details of the agreements which have been arrived at by British steel manufacturers with reference to steel plates and steel rails respectively; if he is aware of the rise in price of these materials which has taken place since the agreements were arrived at; that a third combination to raise prices has just been formed in the steel angle trade; and if he can promise to introduce legislation on the subject at an early date.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): I am unable to give the details of the agreement to which the hon. Member refers, but I have heard it stated that they include an obligation on the part of Scottish and North of England makers of steel plates not to sell certain classes of goods in each others' markets. A provisional agreement of a similar nature is believed to have been entered into with regard to angles, but I am not aware whether it has been ratified yet. As regards steel rails, there has for a long time been an agreement among the principal British makers, who are also understood to be parties to an arrangement arrived at by an international rail syndicate for the division of the world's markets. I am aware of the rise in price which has occurred, but I am advised that this is partly due to other causes affecting the steel market generally. Arrangements for maintaining prices exist in a number of other trades in the United Kingdom, and the introduction of legislative measures for dealing with the matter would obviously require very careful consideration.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY asked whether the right hon. Gentleman would give special attention to the bearing of this matter upon international trade, in view of the fact that these international agreements were in restraint of competition.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Certainly. My attention has already been called to the international aspect of the matter, more especially with regard to South American rails.

New York Mutual Reserve Company.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the Mutual Reserve Life Insurance Company, of New York, have given up their offices at 79, Cannon Street, London; can he state what sum was lodged by this company with the Board of Trade as security for the policy-holders; whether any, and, if so, what part of this sum has been withdrawn; and on what grounds was such withdrawal allowed by the Board of Trade; and can he say what security, if any, has been left for policy holders.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I am informed that the Company in question have given up their London office. The sum of £20,000, as required by the Life Assurance Companies Act, 1870, was deposited with the Court of Chancery by the company when commencing their business in this country in 1886, but the amount was withdrawn by order of the Court in January last in accordance with the Act which provides for the repayment of the deposit as soon as a company has accumulated out of premiums the sum of £40,000. The Board of Trade are not aware of the nature of the security for policy-holders in this or any other insurance companies.

MR. FLYNN: Were the Inspectors of the Board of Trade aware that this company's system was actuarially unsound from the very beginning, and did the Board of Trade take any steps with regard to it?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Lest the public should be under any delusion on the subject, I may say that the Board of Trade is not responsible in connection with the soundness of a company. We do not audit their accounts. The whole question is now being considered by a Committee of the House of Lords.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Did the Board of Trade get notice of the withdrawal of the money from the Court of Chancery?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I will inquire.

MR. BOLAND: Will the right hon. Gentleman see that the particulars of this case are laid before the House of Lords' Committee?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Yes; if my right hon. friend will bring the facts to my notice I will certainly see that the House of Lords' Committee has the information.

London Improvements—House Demolition.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the attention of the Local Government Board has been directed to a notice, advertised in daily and other newspapers circulated in London, of an application to the justices in quarter sessions, to be heard on Tuesday next, for an order to stop sixteen streets so far as some 4,800 feet of such streets are unnecessary by reason of certain building schemes; whether he is aware that it is elsewhere alleged that by such schemes there will afterwards be opened other streets which will more than compensate the public; whether the Local Government Board have any means of forming an opinion as to the nature of the working population likely to be displaced, and as to the possibility of housing such population in the neighbourhood; whether during the two years which is estimated as likely to pass before the houses on six acres of the property in question are pulled down, the President of the Local Government Board would offer the good offices of himself or his department with a view of conferring with those interested in order to make some provision for re-housing the population affected.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): I have made inquiry on this subject, and I understand the facts to be as stated. I have no definite information as to the nature of the working population displaced, but I should anticipate that there would be difficulty in housing now the population in the neighbourhood. I find that the Chelsea Borough Council have for some time been in communication with the promoters of the scheme with regard to the persons of the working class who will be displaced, and that they have obtained some concessions, but not altogether what they desired. They have not, however, succeeded in inducing the promoters to undertake to provide housing accommodation for the persons displaced, but they have obtained some extension of the period of displacement. I do not think I could expect to be more successful if I acted on the suggestion made in the last part of the Question, but I will consider what can be done.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the Government have considered the possibility of legislation to restrict the destruction of more than a certain area of town property below a certain average rateable value without the submission of schemes showing possible provision for the accommodation of those rendered houseless in extension of the legislation which imposes such obligations on those asking for Parliamentary powers.

MR. JOHN BURNS: Proposals of this kind have from time to time been considered by the Local Government Board, but they have not seen their way to proposing legislation on the subject. I will, however, take notice of the suggestion of my right hon. friend.

Education Bill—Extended Facilities.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether schools which shall be given extended facilities, and the owners of which are to receive no rent, will be maintained and kept in repair by the Education Department; and, if so, what the term "other payment" refers to in the Amendment which was carried in regard to the question of rent.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): The responsibility will rest with the local education authority, not with the Board. The term "other payment" is inserted to cover the possible case of extended facilities being afforded in respect of a schoolhouse which is purchased by a local education authority and is in consequence the schoolhouse of a transferred voluntary school as defined by Clause 13 of the Bill.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was aware that there was a widespread feeling of the injustice of this proposal to pay no rent for these schools, and whether on report he would reconsider this question.

MR. BIRRELL: I am afraid I cannot go back on the decision of the Committee.

State-Aided Schools.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if the State-aided schools, established by Clause 4 of the Education Bill, will be regarded as public elementary schools.

MR. BIRRELL: I must refer the hon. Member to the Answer I gave on Thursday last to the Member for Chorley,† to which I have nothing to add.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): The effect of that Answer was that the right hon. Gentleman had not made up his mind.

MR. BIRRELL: I do not think they are public elementary schools.

House of Commons' Letter-Boxes.

MR. CLOUGH (Yorkshire, W.R., Skipton): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if his attention has been drawn to the absence of contrivances on the fixed letter-boxes in the precincts of this House to indicate the time of the next collection of the missives deposited therein; and whether he will take steps to remedy this deficiency.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): My attention has been drawn to this matter, and I am having indicators brought into use.

Collection of Crown Rents—Messrs. Clutton's Fees.

MR. NUSSEY (Pontrefact): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury on what terms Messrs. Clutton are employed by the Woods and Forests Commissioners, and what was their total remuneration in 1903, 1904, and 1905 respectively, from every source in connection with the properties, premises, etc., under the control of the Commissioners.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. McKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): Messrs. Clutton are appointed receivers of the Crown rents and profits arising within the Southern and Midland Counties of England (other than London and Middlesex), and are entitled to retain a poundage of 3 per cent. in the case of some estates and 4 per cent. in the case of others on the amount of rents, etc., collected by them, except on receipts from farms in hand, for the superintendence of which fixed fees agreed with the Treasury are allowed in lieu of commission. Out of this commission and fees they have to provide their own offices and necessary staff, and pay their own travelling and other expenses. They are also usually employed by the Commissioners of Woods as surveyors in matters arising within the districts for which they are receivers, and in which the services of surveyors are required. For these services they are paid charges and expenses in accordance with a scale sanctioned by the Treasury.

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† See Col. 1117.

Their total remuneration for the years 1903, 1904, and 1905, is as follows, viz. :—

Year.	£	s.	d.
1903 - -	4,680	12	9
1904 - -	5,109	5	3
1905 - -	4,672	7	9

Scottish Education System.

Mr. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he can meet the requests made to him on the Education Estimates, to print and circulate a Bill to meet the requirements of the Scottish educational system before the rising of Parliament.

The SECRETARY for SCOTLAND (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire): My hon. friend's suggestion has been carefully considered, and I regret to say that it cannot be followed. It seems the duty of the Government in the first place to endeavour to dispose of the Bills referring to Scotland which are already before the House, or have been promised.

Sutherland Deer Forests.

Mr. MORTON (Sutherland): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that within the last twelve months three homesteads have been broken up near Kinbrace, Sutherland, comprising over 1,000 acres, the houses on two of them blown up by dynamite; and the farms, nearly one-third of which was arable land, turned into a deer forest; and whether the Government intend to take steps to prevent such clearances in future.

Mr. SINCLAIR: The information the hon. Member has received appears to be incorrect. I am informed the facts are as follows: Lochside Farm, to which the Question presumably refers, extends to an area of 4,890 acres or thereby, only 320 of which are arable, or at one time meant to be arable. These 320 acres formed part of what is known as the late Duke of Sutherland's "Kinbrace Reclamations," and the cost of reclaiming that portion alone was about £20,000. It was intended to be divided into three farms with hill pasture common to the three, and concrete houses and offices were erected. But tenants for the three holdings could not be got, and the land was then let as one holding. The arable proved ruinous to the tenant who took it. The nature of the land, situation, and climate were unsuitable to profitable cultivation. The arable land was all put down to grass. In 1886 another attempt was made to let the place in three holdings, but tenants were not forthcoming. The farm was then let on lease for nineteen years as a small sheep farm. The tenant to whom it was let retained it till Whitsunday, 1897, when he was allowed to assign the lease to a tenant occupying two other farms on the estate. The lease expired at Whitsunday, 1905, and it was not considered desirable to re let it to the same tenant, and it was let on long lease to the gentleman who, for a number of years, occupied the shooting over that and adjoining farms. Only one of the houses which had been erected has been occupied for many years and that by a shepherd, the two others being wrecks, their construction proving unsuitable for the district. They were unfit for habitation and were taken down. The shepherd remained in the other house till he obtained another situation. This particular case seems to have been an unsuccessful effort to reclaim land for cultivation, and not a clearance. In regard to legislation, I am unable to make any further statement until the Government Bill to amend the Crofters' Act has been introduced.

Mr. MORTON: Is it the fact that the houses were blown up with dynamite?

Mr. SINCLAIR: I will furnish the hon. Member with a full statement of the facts given to me.

Mr. MORTON: But is it correct that the houses were blown up with dynamite?

MR. SINCLAIR: The houses were not occupied.

MR. MORTON: Then they were blown up with dynamite?

MR. SINCLAIR: I have no information as to that occurrence.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Were they blown down by dynamite?

[No Answer was returned.]

Scottish Medical Officers' Holdings.

MR. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether his attention has been directed to the fact that the Scottish Local Government Board reported recently that it would be to the advantage of the public service that parish councils should grant an adequate holiday to their medical officers, defraying at the same time the cost of a substitute to act for the doctor during his absence; if the Local Government Board have circularised parish councils to that effect; and whether, in view of the poverty of certain districts and burden of local rates rising to over 20s. in the pound, he will take all the circumstances into his earnest consideration.

MR. SINCLAIR: On July 25th, 1900, the Local Government Board issued a circular on this subject generally favourable to the arrangement indicated. The whole question of rating is engaging my earnest consideration.

Glasnevin Model Farm.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): On behalf of the hon. Member for North Dublin, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that recently the public have been excluded from the right of walking through the grounds of the model farm, Glasnevin, county Dublin, through which they have been accustomed to go since the opening of the farm many years ago without let or hindrance and without complaint on the part of the authorities in charge; whether the exclusion of the public has followed closely upon the erection on the farm of some private residences for some officials; and whether, if no injury has in the past ensued as a consequence of the admission of the public to the grounds, the recent order will be revoked.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BRYCE, Aberdeen, S.): The Department of Agriculture have recently had the public excluded from the grounds of the Albert Agricultural College and Model Farm on Sundays. On week days these grounds have been open as heretofore, but it is intended soon to issue regulations with regard to the admission of the public during the week. The Department's action has no connection whatever with the extensions which have recently been carried out in the buildings, which include a residence for one of the officials. The decision to regulate the admission of the public has been arrived at in view of the fact that it is incompatible with the proper arrangement of the studies and discipline of such an institution if these premises and grounds were to be accessible to the public without any restriction.

Chicago Tinned Meat.

MR. HALPIN (Clare, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a suppressed Report of one of the Chicago yard inspectors, on which President Roosevelt acted, declared that of one lot of 500 cattle, slaughtered and exported in tins, 300 were tuberculous; and whether seeing that scientific experts have declared that boiling does not destroy the germs of consumption in tuberculous meat, the Government will prohibit the import of tinned meat till it is an established fact that no tuberculous beast will be allowed into the packing yards of Chicago and the other centres from which tinned meat is exported.

MR. BRYCE: I have no information upon the subject of the Question, but I would refer to the reply given by my right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board to a Question put by the hon. Member for the Newark Division on June 18th,† from which the hon. Member will see that the Government are considering the necessity of obtaining further powers for dealing with foods imported from abroad.

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† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 1371.

Constabulary Fund.

Mr. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can say if the total sum standing to the credit of the Constabulary Force Fund on March 31st last was £386,220; and whether he will recommend that the damages, £100, obtained by Edward Carroll, Rosenallis, Queen's County, in the High Courts a year ago, against constables Masterson and Cryan, Royal Irish Constabulary, for assault, shall be paid out of the said fund, as the constables have so far evaded payment.

Mr. BRYCE: The amount of stock and cash to the credit of the benefit branch of the Constabulary Force Fund is as stated. The fund is, under Statute and Treasury regulation, applicable only to payments to the widows and families of deceased members of the force who were subscribers to the fund; and it could not, therefore, be legally applied to the purpose suggested in the Question.

Galway Evicted Tenant.

Mr. JOHN ROCHE (Galway E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that an evicted tenant named William O'Neill was promised £100 to stock a farm which he got at New Inn, county Galway; whether he can state the amount he received; and will he direct that the balance will be paid him without further delay.

Mr. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they sanctioned free grants of £130 for building and £45 for stock to William O'Neill, an evicted tenant, to whom they allotted a parcel of land. Up to the end of last month the entire grant for stock had been issued, and all but £20 of the grant for building. The inspector, under whose supervision the building grant is being expended, has now been directed to make such further payments as the work done justifies.

Commission on Drainage.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any interim Report has been made, or will be called for, from the Commission on Drainage; and, if so, when it may be expected.

Mr. BRYCE: The Commissioners do not propose to present an interim Report, but they anticipate that they will be able to furnish their complete Report by the close of the present year. It does not appear that the object for which the Commission was appointed would be furthered in any way by the presentation of an interim Report.

Louth Evicted Tenant.

Mr. NOLAN (Louth, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the recent eviction of Michael Duffy, of Roodstown, Ardee Union, county Louth, by the Earl of Dartrey, for non-payment of a rack-rent; whether he is aware that the tenant was unable to enter the Land Court to have a fair rent fixed, owing to arrears of rent of twenty-five years' standing, with subsequent law costs; that the eviction has been condemned by resolution by the Ardree Board of Guardians; and whether he can hold out any hope of a speedy restoration of Mr. Duffy to his holding.

Mr. BRYCE: The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have no knowledge of the matters of fact alleged in the Question, and that Michael Duffy has not lodged with them an application for reinstatement. Should such application be made to the Commissioners they will have it duly enquired into and dealt with.

Sweating.

Mr. O'GRADY: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that in the East End of London there are approximately 5,000 employers, employing approximately 90,000 workpeople, who can be classed as sweaters and sweated, and that the same condition of things applies relatively to all the large centres of industry, he will consider the advisability of appointing a Royal Commission to investigate the sweating evils, with the view of recommending legislation that will remedy the matter.

The PRIME MINISTER and FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs):

I have already told the hon. Gentleman that the Government do not at present propose to appoint a Royal Commission to investigate the sweating system. He must not think that we are indifferent or unsympathetic in regard to the evils of this system, which we recognise as fully as he does. I may tell him that all the steps that can be taken within the existing law to protect the workers from the bad economic and sanitary conditions that beset them are being taken: and the Central Departments which are concerned with the admistration of the Factory and Sanitary Acts are collecting, informating, and putting pressure upon the local authorities to carry out their duties.

MR. O'GRADY asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he was aware that, after all, the greatest pressure came from wages as well as from sanitation, that the law could not interfere with that matter, and that, therefore, it did require a Royal Commission to inquire into the matter of wages as well as of sanitation.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN was understood to reply that the time might come when it might be necessary to make an inquiry, but that the Government did not think it had arisen yet. They had many inquiries already on hand.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY asked whether, in view of the importance of the wages side of this question, the right hon. Gentleman could facilitate the Wages Bill now before the House, or bring forward a similar measure as a Government measure.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: That is asking me for special facilities for a particular Bill. Perhaps the hon. Gentleman will repeat his Question at a later date.

Fertilizers and Feeding Stuffs Bill.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS (Glasgow. Camlachie): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been called to a whip or letter of solicitation, issued last week by an officer of the Board of Agriculture, and dated from the offices of the Board of Agriculture, to Members of this House sitting on the Grand Committee on Law, begging support for a Bill of that Department called the Fertilizers and Feeding Stuffs Bill, in which it was stated that this official was acting on the orders of Lord Carrington and expressing his wishes; whether it is in accordance with custom for officials in the public State Departments to issue whips to Members of this House; and, if not, whether he will consider the advisability of issuing a Minute directing public officials not to bring pressure to bear on Members of the House of Commons.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I do not see that there is anything coercive or that any undue interference or pressure has been exercised in the letter referred to, a copy of which I have seen. A Minister is entitled, whether by letter or by speech, to urge the importance of a departmental measure for which he is responsible. And, on the other hand, I have no doubt that those engaged in the trade of fertilisers and feeding stuffs will take such means as they think suitable for furthering their views.

MR. T. M. HEALY: Does the right hon. Gentleman think it makes no difference if the Minister is a Member of the House of Lords and the members of the Committee are Members of the House of Commons?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: He does not address the Members of the House of Commons directly. He does it through his Department or through the hon. Member who represents him in this House as a rule.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): I would ask the right hon. Gentleman, without commenting on the propriety of the step, whether it is not a very unusual step, and whether the ordinary conditions of traditional practice are not far better and far safer for Ministers to follow?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I do not how what the right hon. Gentleman refers to as the traditional practice. I should think that a Minister might very well use such means as he has for bringing before the Members of the Committee the importance of the subject.

MR. ALEXANDER CROSS: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether I shall be in order if I address members of a Committee of the House of Lords ?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN : Perfectly, I should say—for what it is worth.

The Education Bill.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) asked the President of the Board of Education whether he would arrange to have the Education Bill reprinted so that they might have Clause 4 before them in its present shape, and, also, how he proposed to ascertain the wishes of the House in respect of the new Clause 3 before they reached Clause 8 ?

MR. BIRRELL thought it would be very convenient to have a reprint of the Bill, and he would issue orders accordingly. He quite agreed that the new clause stood in a somewhat difficult position. Clause 8 would come on, in ordinary course, to-morrow, and he apprehended that it must be discussed as it stood now upon the Paper. The new clause was introduced because he held the view, perhaps mistakenly, that he was under some obligation, in consequence of what took place in the House, to give a choice in the matter. It was in consequence of the feeling expressed on the other side.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby) : This side.

MR. BIRRELL : Then on both sides if you will. I repeat that it was not the Government proposal. Their proposals were as stated in the Bill. A proposal was made by the hon. Member for the University of Oxford that there should be an obligation imposed upon every local education authority to take over every structurally fit school that proposed itself to be taken over. He said that, in his opinion, that ought to be a bi-lateral obligation, and that there should be an obligation on the part of private owners and also of trustees, even although their trusts were what were called of a loose character—trusts which permitted their premises to be applied to non-educational purposes—that they should be taken over too. That proposal was certainly not accepted by the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition, and if he had had the experience he now had of the conduct of measures he would probably have thought it the wiser thing to let the matter drop. But, being anxious to afford facilities for that discussion, he said he would introduce a clause. He did not think it would be fair, however, that he should use the Government majority to compel private owners compulsorily to part with their schools unless it was generally felt that that was a desirable course. Therefore, unless he got some sort of indication—it was very difficult to know to whom he was to look for it—that the clause received some measure of general support, he did not think the Government would persist with it. Although he could not put compulsion on anybody, and right hon. Gentlemen opposite were fully entitled to stand on their dignity and say the Government must take its own course, he did think it would be convenient to know what was the view taken of this clause, which was introduced to meet a point by hon. Gentlemen opposite. If it was accepted, Clause 8 would have to be debated in a modified form, but in the absence of any assurance they must go on with Clause 8 as it stood.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked whether the point which the right hon. Gentleman said the clause was introduced to meet was a pledge given by the Government on the introduction of the Bill that facilities should be given in schools under Clause 3, and whether that was a point which could be ignored by the Government.

MR. BIRRELL said he disputed that altogether. He had read over again the speech he made on that occasion, and he said most unhesitatingly that there was no obligation, expressed or implied, in any part of that speech, on the local authority to take over those schools. He thought he made that perfectly clear as to Clause 3. He invariably used the hypothetical expression "if" the school was transferred, and "if so" again and again. He was not there to defend the precision of his language, and it might very well be that ingenious minds might put another construction upon certain passages. He could not for one moment admit that there was a single word fairly read in his speech, taking the context altogether, which expressed the faintest intention on the part of the Government to impose on every local authority in the country the obligation of taking over voluntary schools, whether they were wanted or not.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked whether the right hon. Gentleman was correctly reported to have said:—"Thus far the facilities or opportunities I have spoken of have been of a compulsory character"—speaking of Clause 3. "When demanded and when required, the authorities must grant them."

MR. BIRRELL said that was the one passage in the whole speech which was ambiguous in its terms. He fully expected to hear it quoted. There were other passages which made it perfectly plain that he contemplated no obligation, and that very likely the schools would not be transferred under that clause.

MR. DILLON said that on the strength of the Government pledge an Amendment moved from the Liberal benches was withdrawn.

MAJOR SEELY said he moved the Amendment in question, and after his right hon. friend had given the pledge in very specific terms, he withdrew the Amendment on the advice of the hon. Member for Waterford and against the advice of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham. The account given by his right hon. friend seemed to him totally at variance with the facts.

MR. SAMUEL EVANS (Glamorganshire, Mid.) asked whether there was any Question before the House.

*MR. SPEAKER: We are still at Question time; perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will remember that.

MR. BIRRELL apologised for having exceeded the limits of an Answer to a Question. He was quite willing that the new clause should come on for discussion on the Report stage, if it was wanted. But he still thought he was fairly entitled to ascertain whether the clause was wanted by the House, and he must proceed with Clause 8 on the assumption that the new clause was not wanted.

MR. DILLON asked whether it was not the custom, when the Government gave a pledge to introduce a clause, that they should introduce it in accordance with the pledge.

[No reply was given.]

MR. PAUL (Northampton) hoped his right hon. friend would do nothing to interfere with the burning desire of the Church of England schools for confiscation.

MESSAGE TO THE LORDS.

Ordered, That a Message be sent to the Lords to request that their Lordships will be pleased to give leave to Sir Henry Graham, K.C.B., Clerk of the Parliaments, to attend to be examined as a Witness before the Committee of Public Accounts.—(*Mr. Victor Cavendish.*)

BILLS OF EXCHANGE ACT (1882) AMENDMENT BILL.

Order [June 15th] that the Bills of Exchange Act (1882) Amendment Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc., read, and discharged.

Bill committed to the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.—(*Mr. Attorney-General.*)

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Clause 7:—

*MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury), in moving to omit Sub-section (1), said he believed he was echoing the sentiments of all people who valued religious denominational instruction when he said that the facilities for instruction on two days in the week given under Clause 3 would be only a sham, unless the religious instruction was allowed to be given by teachers who believed in that particular denominational instruction which the owners of the schools and the parents of children attending the schools wished o have taught there. He would be told that the teacher was not the person to give it, but that it was the duty of the ministers of the various denominations. He frankly admitted that some ministers were perfectly qualified to give the instuction, but all teachers were not born ministers of religion, and all ministers of religion were not born teachers. It was generally admitted that to impart secular instruction a teacher had to undergo a careful course of training and to possess the ability to impart instruction and to control children. If those qualities were necessary in order to give secular instruction, he thought they must admit that persons who had to give denominational instruction should also possess them. He anticipated that he should have the support of the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, for hon. Members would remember his exceedingly eloquent and telling speech of May 22nd on the Amendment, the object of which was to drive all religious instruction from the day school, when he said that the national teachers were becoming more skilled every day, and knew the way to a child's mind better than anyone else, and asked what the child would have to look to if the teacher did not help it. From that he (Mr. Hicks Beach) thought he might infer that, if the teacher were to be allowed to give undenominational teaching, he ought surely to be allowed to give denominational teaching as well. He believed he should also have the support of the Government, because by their Bill, as it at present stood, they admitted the principle that the teacher was a person who ought to give religious instruction, whether of an undenominational character, or whether of that particular kind which was allowed in schools of urban areas in five days in the week. The Minister for Education, in reply to a deputation of representatives of the Jewish schools, went so far as to announce his intention with reference to Clause 4, that the schools should be carried on just as they were now, and that it was certainly the intention of the clause that the teachers should remain the same as they were. If children in schools in urban areas were to be allowed the privilege of being taught by the teachers in religious subjects on five days of the week, was it not rather a slur on the children in rural schools that they were not also to be allowed that privilege? The Parliamentary Secretary of the Board of Education also asked the Committee to look at this subject, not from the standpoint of the House of Commons but from the standpoint of the child; and said the child would find there was something wanting if the teacher was not allowed to give him religious as well as secular instruction. He believed there would also be something wanting if the teacher was allowed to give the child undenominational teaching for three days a week and was not allowed to give him denominational teaching on two days a week. Naturally a child would ask why was it that his teacher was allowed to teach him certain things three days a week and not to give him instruction on the other days? He would ask whether his teacher really believed in the doctrines which he was not allowed to impart to him. The teacher would have to reply that he believed in them, but that owing to the extreme foresight of the great Liberal Party, who had always boasted about religious equality, he was not permitted to afford the religious instruction desired. He did not know what the child would think upon receiving that answer, but he could only hope that one result would be to make an impression upon the child's mind which would lead him when he grew up to never vote for any Liberal candidate. He believed that the teachers valued the privilege of giving this religious instruction as much as any part of their duties, and were by no means anxious to give it up. No doubt he should be told that the Government had received a mandate to abolish tests for teachers, and that under the existing system Nonconformist teachers were cut off from appointments in Church schools; but he would have more respect for that cry if it were not a fact that the best paid posts were to be found in the provided schools, and if he did not believe that there were not sufficient Nonconformist teachers to fill up the posts of head teacher in the provided schools without saying anything of those posts in the non-provided schools. He believed, moreover, that this Clause 7 was nothing more nor less than another flank attack upon the Church of England. The President of the Board of Education had said that the minority must suffer, but he believed that the result of this clause would be that the majority would suffer and the minority would benefit. He believed that this was an attack upon the Church of England, because under Clause 4 100 per cent. of the Jewish schools would be enabled to give their own religious instruction through the teachers, and 77 per cent. of the Roman Catholic schools would be in the same position, while only 25 per cent. of the Church of England schools would be saved for the purposes designed by their founders. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 13, to leave out Sub-section (1)."—(*Mr. Hicks Beach.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'a teacher employed in a public elementary school' stand part of the clause."

*MR. ACLAND (Yorkshire, Richmond) said this was one of the most important points of the Bill. The Committee would doubtless be told that what was desired by the Amendment was simply freedom to teach, and that it was illiberal to refuse freedom of any kind. But he thought the sub-section as it stood made for a more important freedom, the freedom to be really free. If it was omitted they must say good-bye altogether to the idea that they were getting rid of tests for teachers. In the county, part of which he represented, they had, as it happened, as chairman of the committee charged with the appointment of teachers an archdeacon of the Church of England, a most fair-minded man, who would do his duty in selecting teachers to the best of his ability; but it would, in his opinion, only be that man's duty to see to it, if the Amendment were carried, that there were sent to Church schools only such teachers as would be willing to give Church of England instruction. That would be so in a large number of counties, and if it were not done by the education authority it would be the duty of the clergyman of the parish concerned to do everything he could to see that the same action was taken. He would get to see the records of all the candidates for the post of teacher, he would find out which of them would give the denominational teaching, and he would make it quite clear that one of these must be appointed, if peace and quietness in the village were desired. They had gone a very long way in meeting particular cases with regard to denominational teachers. The Catholic case was a very special and peculiar one, demanding special treatment. But they were not willing to go one inch further than they had gone already in the direction of letting religious questions interfere with the appointment of teachers. Let them consider what would happen in the case of a teacher who had hitherto given religious instruction and was willing to continue it after the passing of the Act. He would of course receive a special salary, and would naturally desire that all children should receive the instruction, because it would be impossible in a small school to give both denominational and Cowper-Temple instruction at the same time. He would succeed in making all the parents apply for the special teaching, and on two days of the week the other teaching would disappear. A man might then come to the village wishing for the Cowper-Temple instruction, which he had a perfect right to demand for his children. The teacher who had settled down to give denominational instruction would find that he was put to a great deal of inconvenience and financial loss, and would find the presence of the newcomer very inconvenient, and would make his life or that of his children difficult. Then there was the case of a teacher who had been appointed without inquiry beforehand as to his religion, and who was not willing to give denominational teaching. It would be a very hard thing for such a teacher, who would find him or herself opposed to the predominant power in the village, and it would be very difficult to settle down happily there. The only possible course was to say that the teacher must serve one master only. He might do exactly what he liked out of school hours in regard to instruction, but during the school hours he was the servant of the education authority only, and not of any sect or denomination. People charged the Bill with doing nothing for education, but there were really plenty of places where it made for educational progress—though it was true you had to look for them. The sub-section as it stood ought to make for educational improvement. The condition of things in the scattered schools in the rural counties hitherto had made for stagnation. There was too much stagnation in the schools, and that was not right. A good secretary of the education authority under this Bill, with power for the first time to review and make all appointments and promotions, would be able to organise the teaching in the villages and put it on a much better footing. He would be able to take a promising assistant teacher in a large school and give him the position of head teacher in a small village school, with a promise that if he succeeded there as a head teacher he would promote him to a larger school. Putting good teachers into these small village schools was the best way of keeping the schools up to the mark. But all this would be made much more difficult if the Amendment was adopted. He thought all the educational development for which they hoped would be effected by making the educational question the only question to be considered in making these appointments. It would be a very bad thing for a teacher to be labelled as a *persona grata* or a *persona ingrata* in High Church schools, because such a thing was likely to interfere with the educational requirements of the staffing of the schools. He also put it on the ground of religion. He thought very strongly that it was in the true interest of religion that the Church of England and other Churches should realise from the first that they were going to be put in a different position, in some ways at any rate, by this Bill; that they should organise their teachers and make their arrangements from the first, the time most suitable for so doing. They would soon have offered to them certain rents for the use of buildings, and that would be one use for them. The great Churches could organise a splendid system of visiting and resident teachers to give proper denominational teaching if they began when these rents were first paid, and did not allow them to be absorbed for some other purpose. They ought also to consider the recent offer of 75 per cent. of building grants to all public training colleges. If that meant anything it meant that many teachers' training colleges would be built, and many teachers turned out from those training colleges who would have no guarantee of any special fitness to give denominational instruction. The proportion of trained teachers in the English Church schools must therefore decrease. Any authority which had to staff these schools would be bound more and more to staff them with teachers who were unable or unwilling to give denominational teaching. Was it not better that the Church should face the state of things and organise a proper system of teachers for denominational instruction with the funds available for that purpose? It was amazing to see the lightness of heart with which any teacher trained in any Church Training College was entrusted with the special and delicate task of giving denominational teaching. If such teaching was given it should be given by a man who had had a great deal more special training than was afforded by two years residence in a training college, the whole of which time was occupied in studying for the examinations in secular subjects by which he passed out of the college. Then there was one final argument; they were told the teachers desired to give this special religious instruction. He admitted that a great many of them did, for two very considerable reasons. In the first place, there was the well-known hatred of any outside interference, which they very much disliked, and which they brutally described as "the parson in their school." They were disturbed by what they thought would be the introduction of an outside element in their school, and naturally they desired to keep their school to themselves. That was the first reason why they were anxious to give this teaching in the future. The second was that they would get extra salary for so doing. They were, therefore, a class who would agree with the hon. Gentleman opposite, if any class would, that his Amendment ought to be adopted. But what was the opinion which they found expressed by a majority of seven or eight in a meeting of fifty or so of the Executive Committee of the National Union of Teachers? They passed a resolution approving of Sub-section (1) as it stood, and hoped that it would be made law. That was a strong argument in favour of the sub-section. The fact that the one class which had any real temptation to wish that no alteration should be made in the law had, through their most responsible representatives, declared in favour of the proposal of the Government was a very strong fact. He thought on the whole those who sat on the Liberal side of the House appreciated the importance of this proposal of the Government, but in his view it would be better if this Amendment was now disposed of rapidly in order that the Committee might get on to other matters of great importance which it was hoped would be discussed to-day.

*SIR HENRY CRAIK (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) said he must commence his observations by saying how much he admired the eloquence and spirit with which the hon. Member for the Richmond Division of Yorkshire had dealt with the question. He said that all the more strongly because he was unable in any way to accept the conclusions at which the hon. Member had arrived. He spoke to the Committee as one who represented a larger number of teachers, he believed, than any Member of the House. In the constituency he represented there were 1,200 teachers, and 300 or 400 of those were employed in schools in England. He was sure he was voicing their views, quite as strongly as a small majority at a meeting of fifty members of the Union of Teachers, in saying that they resented, as much as they would resent any test that could be imposed upon them, this embargo on the most sacred part of their teaching. One of the practical difficulties of this matter was this: Where were they going to get teachers to come in for forty minutes in the morning and to leave their work thereafter? In a school of 800 children they required twenty or twenty-one teachers of secular education, and they could not have only one teacher for religious instruction any more than they could have one teacher for secular instruction. How could they bring in twenty or twenty-one teachers for forty minutes and then turn them adrift? But a greater difficulty was with regard to the discipline of the schools. Did not hon. Gentlemen think that that would be interfered with by a man coming in to take up the task of religious instruction in which the regular teachers were forbidden to take part, or to perform what they on that side believed was the most important duty which teachers could perform? But he would not dwell upon the technical or mechanical difficulties, although everyone acquainted with the inside of a school knew how serious they were. What he wished to speak of was the intellectual work of the school. They grappled with difficulties in their educational advance; they made experiments and they made mistakes; but if there was one thing which in recent years they had advanced towards more than another, by a comparison of all the views of those most interested in the subject and a comparison with the methods indifferent countries, it was that education was not the gathering of a few elements of information, but that it was a whole, a whole in which one part was dovetailed into another. If they lost sight of that the work became mere mechanical drudgery. Were they to give up the training of character and the formation of moral conduct in the schools? The teacher might teach truth, duty towards one's neighbour, and so on; but if he went into questions of the higher sanction that would be entering on forbidden ground. Would hon. Members who sent their children to the higher schools of the country be content that the headmaster should be cut off from the most sacred part of the instruction of the young? Look at the reformatories. How long would those schools perform their work if the teacher was debarred from touching upon religion? It was argued by the hon. Member for the Richmond Division that the teacher must serve one master only, but was it not the case that there had been hitherto two authorities in the elementary schools? He had often noticed during these debates how much that fact was neglected. There was the authority of the State and the authority of the local controlling power. The State was purely secular. Never had the Board of Education as representing the State any right to interfere with religious instruction, even to ask whether it existed in the school or not. The State paid nothing for it, and all that it did was to see that there was not too much religion and that it was taught under certain restrictions. The religion was attended to by the local authority, but the teacher served both authorities. The hon. Member for North Camberwell yesterday quoted certain words of ethical doctrine from the Code. The very fact that they appeared in the Code excluded the possibility of their being religious, because under the Education Act of 1870 the Code was forbidden to touch any religious question at all. He contended, therefore, that the teachers heretofore had satisfactorily carried on their work in obedience to these two authorities, the one having the supervision of religious education and the other of the purely secular. Why should not the teacher carry on the higher and most important part of religious teaching? He wished to treat the matter also in the interests of the teachers themselves. Were they going to deprive the teacher of what he had hitherto felt to be a great part of his work, namely, the building up of the character of the pupil? He would appeal especially to his fellow Members from Scotland. What were they proudest of in the elementary education of Scotland? Was it not the parish schoolmaster of old days whom they were proud to recognise as one of the best specimens of his race? What would the old parish schoolmaster have thought if religion had been excluded from his sphere of education? Would his school have held the place it had in the history of Scotland, or built up Scottish citizens for the great work they had done for the Empire? Were they going so far to forget these traditions, to be false to them, to underrate the great work they had done, by telling the teachers that they might teach their pupils secular subjects, that they might cram them with elementary knowledge, that they might, if they were so disposed, give them a few precepts of more or less ethical force, but that when the pupils' enthusiasm was awakened to more sacred things they must curb their desires in that direction?

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.) expressed admiration of the manner in which the hon. Member who moved the Amendment made his points so clear, and also complimented the hon. Member behind him for the admirable reply he had given. Both these hon. Gentlemen bore ancient Parliamentary names, and he thought there was no doubt that they would maintain the reputation of those names in time to come. It was impossible for the Government to accept the Amendment. It would, in homely vernacular, "knock the bottom out of their own Bill," and it would make it difficult to answer the question which would be put to them from many quarters, "What are we going to get for our million of money?" The privilege of paying rent was not one which commended itself to the inhabitants of this country. They would naturally expect that if they did that there should be some difference in the mode in which the schools were conducted, and some hing to indicate the recognition of the right of the public in the schools. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham had spoken of this Bill the other day in a manner which attracted his attention. It was not a complimentary manner. The right hon. Gentleman was no doubt a master of compliments, but he had not happened to be within earshot of any of them. He said the Bill was a bad Bill, but it was a Bill very difficult to mend. There was truth in the statement, not that the Bill was bad—that he admitted to be controversial—but that this was not a Bill of which they could at any moment take up a clause and amend it so as to turn it inside out. It was an undenominational Bill, and its object was to establish, at all events in the rural districts, an undenominational kind of religious teaching, to enable the existing councils when they thought fit—as most of them had thought fit in the past, and would in the time to come, he hoped, think fit—to arrange for a form of religious teaching which he would go to the grave convinced met the desires and wants of the great masses of the country. The hon. Member who had just sat down had made a speech from which it might be supposed that the unhappy teacher under this Bill would never have any opportunity of enforcing on his pupils the divine sanctions of religion, or in any way of getting at their hearts and imaginations through that great and holy channel. That was not so. All teachers would tell him that it was not only through the catechisms and formularies of a Church that they were able to give religious teaching in its most effective form. Although he did not ask them to be satisfied, if they were not so minded, with the kind of teaching which it was the Government's object to establish in all the schools except in those frankly denominational schools contemplated by Clause 4, he did protest against announcements that there was to be no religion in those schools at all, and no opportunities given to the teachers to use religious examples and exercise religious influence. That was not the Government view. Yet the hon. Member drew a picture of a teacher in one of these schools cut off rudely from all opportunities of doing good in the way that he wished to, as if a great barrier were to be erected between him and his pupils which he could not cross, simply because he could not use the formularies and catechisms of the Church The reason why the clause was necessary was that in the greater part of the schools the ordinary teacher would be giving undenominational teaching as part of his duty. In the large majority of cases that would be so. There might be exceptions, and although what he had laid down was applicable to nine-tenths of the whole situation it might not be perfectly applicable to the remaining one-tenth. They contemplated that this Cowper-Temple instruction was to be given by the ordinary teachers because it was to be the school instruction and ought to be given by the teachers. The mover of the Amendment had laid stress on a teacher's believing in the definite instruction he was giving, and there was no means of securing that an ordinary elementary teacher believed in special dogmatic teaching. They could not dive into the depths of a man's mind, or tell how far a bishop of any church believed in the doctrine he was preaching; and from both Church of England and Nonconformist preachers he had heard discourses which led him to doubt if the preacher believed the doctrine he was expounding in the sense in which ordinary plain people believed it. They could not absolutely secure that; and that being so, they could not do better than leave it to voluntary effort. In that there was some security that the pupil would get the definite precise teaching. Even then there would be no absolute guarantee of belief, for no church had yet succeeded in accomplishing that, but there would be more chance of sincere belief by voluntary effort than by any other method. He had got into trouble when he had spoken of the canonical duty of the clergy; but surely it was recognised as part of the duty of the clergy to instruct the young in their own creed! There was no need to remind the clergy that it was a duty which they, in the first instance, should undertake. At any rate he thought he was justified in reminding the clergy of the Church of England that this was not a duty that they could impose upon State aid. He was amazed to hear the hon. Member who had just sat down say it was impossible to get such teaching in large schools. He was disposed to agree with the hon. Member for the Richmond Division of Yorkshire that the new duties would call forth new energies, which would enable the Church of England, never slow in discharging its educational duties, to provide religious instruction to the children whose parents desired it—they would continue to give that instruction and in a more organised form. He was afraid it was too often true of ministers of all religions that they too readily assumed that the school children were receiving the most satisfactory form of religious instruction. Nothing was more easy than to assume that all was going well if one did not inquire. Let one keep away from schools, reformatories, workhouses, prisons and he might become optimistic and believe that all was going on well. But let him go into a Church school, listen to the teaching given, watch the intelligence of the children, see how far they understand, and it would be admitted that religion was shockingly badly taught in the majority of schools. If this clause was bad it was bad with the badness of the Bill, which proceeded on an undenominational, but religious basis. He believed the children would continue to receive the religious instruction called for by the country, and that it would be good teaching according to the qualifications of the teacher. He emphatically denied that they were cutting off religious teaching when cutting off denominational teaching to be given by the ordinary teacher. In the case of schools provided for by Clause 4, the teaching would be given by the teacher of the school, for the reason that the denominational character of the schools was recognised. Of course if they believed that undenominational teaching was repugnant to a Protestant community the Bill would be an impossibility; but basing themselves on experience of the past, and knowing the wishes of parents, the Government felt themselves on firm ground, and could not consent to the Amendment.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said the right hon. Gentleman had followed his usual formula when he said the Bill must necessarily be a bad Bill from the point of view of the Opposition, but in the attempt to defend the Bill on its merits and by reason he sometimes got into trouble. The right hon. Gentleman had said that they could not gauge the qualifications of a teacher to teach children the highest truths of religion. That might or might not be true, but if true it was as true of Cowper-Temple teaching as of denominational teaching. The right hon. Gentleman had also told the Committee that he was prepared to go to his grave with the firm unalterable conviction that the Cowper-Temple teaching was the form of religious teaching the mass of parents among his fellow countrymen desired.

Mr. BIRRELL: In schools.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said it was not a very easy proposition to resolve, and one of the difficulties was that of naming any form, from the literary and moral instruction of Dr. Clifford to the dogmatic Christian instruction in the Catechism. Which of these two things, which differed as far as north and south, and as far as two sets of opinions on this great subject could differ, was the right hon. Gentleman going to his grave in the belief that the parents of this country desired for their children? He wished the right hon. Gentleman would tell them which form of this municipal religion the parents of the children really wanted. Until they knew, they were utterly at sea as to what this religion really meant. When the right hon. Gentleman said that he admired Cowper-Temple teaching, he certainly did not mean merely literature and morality, as Dr. Clifford did.

Mr. BIRRELL: He is not a syllabus.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said Dr. Clifford was not a syllabus, but he was a force. He was the admitted leader of a particular school of religious thought who held with vehement conviction not merely that denominational teaching ought not to be admitted, or encouraged, or paid for in our elementary schools, but also that there was no logical resting-place between denominational teaching and something which was not religious teaching, but literary teaching. It was perplexing that they should have sitting in the front Bench opposite two gentlemen who both told them that the people of this country, at all events in the country districts, only required one kind of religious teaching, and when they were asked what kind of religious teaching, one indicated that he meant literature and morality, and the other that he meant what everybody would describe as dogmatic, though not denominational, Christian teaching. He would like a little more agreement among Members of the Government on this important point. The inconsistency of the right hon. Gentleman did not stop there. He had told them that, although they could not judge whether a teacher was or was not fit to teach denominational religion, they could judge whether he was fit to teach Christian religion. What a strange distinction; what an amazing paradox! The defence of this clause made by the hon. Member for the Richmond Division was much clearer and more forcible than that made by the Minister for Education. It was quite clear that the hon. Member regarded this clause as an attack upon the Church of England. He said it was quite true they had duties to the Church of Rome, which they had attempted honestly to carry out in Clause 4, but they had no duty to the Church of England, except to destroy her present position. The hon. Member, following the example of many who held that opinion, had told them that by destroying the present position of the Church of England they would do that Church a great deal of good; that there would be developed a great body of trained denominational teachers, who would go from voluntary school to voluntary school, and do all the denominational work that was required of them. He did not know whether that was a practical scheme or not, but if the hon. Gentleman was so anxious to aid the Church of England in becoming a more effectual educational machine, why did he not apply the same health-giving process to the Church of Rome? He thought that what the hon. Gentleman really wanted was to turn the Church of England out of all the schools from which it was possible to exclude her. He could not do it in the urban areas without also injuring the Church of Rome. But in the country districts the Government and the hon. Gentleman avowedly meant to do all they could so to modify our education laws that the Church of England would be excluded from her own schools, and the method of teaching which she had adopted would be allowed no longer. He did not think he was exaggerating the animus observable among a large number of gentlemen opposite. They had attempted to supplement a rather crude and ungenerous policy by something which seemed to him to be absolutely rotten from the beginning, and which their own speeches showed to be rotten. Let them take the example that occurred in the speech of the hon. Member for the Richmond division. The hon. Member said it would be unfair to the teachers to require them to teach Church of England dogmas. A teacher might go to a village where the teachers had been in the habit of giving Church of England teaching, and if he was unwilling to give that teaching he might be subjected to social pressure, and his life made very uncomfortable. The hon. Gentleman's argument, if it was worth anything, was as valid against sub-section (1) as it stood, as it would be against the Bill if this sub-section were excluded, because a teacher who went to a village where Cowper-Temple teaching had been given, and was unwilling to teach undenominational religion, would be subjected to the same pressure and the same social ostracism. The hon. Member had described the Amendment as an interference with freedom. If it was a step in the direction of freedom to prevent teachers from giving denominational teaching, which they were willing and anxious to give, the hon. Member should go a step further towards perfect freedom, and say the teacher who was willing and anxious to teach undenominational religion should be forbidden to teach it He thought that in the speeches of the Minister in charge of the Bill, and of the hon. Member for the Richmond division, there was no allusion to the interests of the children themselves. There was one admission in the speech of the hon. Member for the Richmond division. It was unfair, he said, to the teachers to make appointments in village schools of teachers who were qualified to teach the kind of religion which the parents desired. Unfair to whom? He seemed to think the teachers existed only to give secular instruction; that religion was an "extra" and ought not to be considered in the qualifications of the teacher. To ask a teacher whether he was able to deal with reading, writing, and arithmetic, and secular instruction generally, was right, but to ask whether he was also qualified to teach religion, denominational or undenominational, was unfair to the teacher. He was utterly unable to put himself in the frame of mind of those who deliberately constructed their Bill for the avowed purpose of preventing people who were ready to teach something which they believed from teaching that something to those who were anxious to be taught.

MR. ACLAND: It could be taught in the Sunday schools.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR asked whether freedom was to exist on only one of the seven days of the week? What he was really unable to understand was how hon. Gentlemen could, from the mere dislike of the Church of England [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh."] ——

MR. ACLAND: I deny that I have any dislike of the Church.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he was quite unable to understand why those who desired to exclude the Church of England from her present position as a teaching body in elementary schools should be so over-mastered by that desire that they would, without seeing how paradoxical was their position, really prevent those who desired to teach from teaching those who desired to learn. That was an utterly indefensible scheme, and if anybody told him that that, or anything like it, was the view of the country when this Bill was discussed on the platform, he replied that they did not really understand what the view of the country was. He believed them to be under the wildest delusions on that point. The Minister for Education had said they could not accept the Amendment because, if they did, what should they answer when the question was put to them, "What are you spending your million on?" Had it really come to this—that the Government came down to this House and suggested that out of their not too flourishing finances a million should be expended with the avowed object of preventing those teaching what they were qualified to teach to those who were desirous of learning it? They posed as the advocates of ecomony, they claimed to be the real guardians of the money of the taxpayers, and then they came and proposed to spend that money in order to destroy the position of the Church they disliked, although at the same time they prevented the children of the country getting the education the parents desired for their children. That was what they were doing under this sub-section.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir W. ROBSON, South Shields) said he hoped that the observations of the right hon. Gentleman with regard to the grant of money would be repeated when the question came to be discussed as to how this money should be allocated. The precise scope of this sub-section, which the Amendment proposed to omit, was to prohibit the teacher who, receiving his salary from the State, had become a State officer, from devoting his time and services to the interests of a particular denomination by no means co-extensive with the State whose employee he was. He did not see how that was an attack upon the Church of England which simply reduced the Church of England to the same position as other religious bodies of having to provide for its own propaganda among its own children and other people's children. The Church demanded that this State officer should teach doctrines at the expense of the State, including Nonconformists, to whom those doctrines were in some cases abhorrent, and in many cases dangerous from the point of view of their own faith. That, according to the Leader of the Opposition, was the right of the Church, and, if they attacked that right, the right to perpetrate that gross inequality and injustice, they were attacking the Church, they were manifesting a dislike of the Church. The Nonconformist bodies had expanded and prospered upon the voluntary system. They had heard a good deal about the sacrifices which the Church of England had made; but they did not hear of the vitalising sacrifices which the Nonconformists had made. They did not regret them nor did they put their hands into the pockets of their fellow-citizens in order to repay them for these sacrifices. They had pushed their creed into the lowest slums of our great cities, and not content with that, they had carried their energies into the uttermost parts of the earth. They had done that on the voluntary principle. They had not asked for State aid; on the contrary they had spurned State aid; and they had thereby intensified the spirituality of their work. It was possible for those who did not avail themselves of the ministrations of the Church of England to believe that that Church would gain by the application of those principles; but why should they be charged with having a dislike to the Church of England? He wondered how the right hon. Gentleman would like it if he were charged with a dislike of Nonconformity? He was not going to make any charge against him. He did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman had so far examined his feelings towards Nonconformity as to know whether he liked it or not, but, judging simply by his policy, he seemed to regard Nonconformity as a very objectionable form of faith, and to consider that the needs of Nonconformity, from the point of view of its propaganda, were sufficiently met by school teaching which did not concern itself with the special doctrines of Nonconformity at all. The right hon. Gentleman desired to maintain the grievance against which the country so emphatically pronounced at the last election, and to continue the system under which the Church of England should be able to draw taxes, tithes, and rates from non-assenting members of the community and so save itself from the cost of conducting the propaganda and the spread of its own particular doctrines. In these schools, the property of the State, it was to be unjust, according to the right hon. Gentleman, that the teacher should serve the State rather than some particular denomination. Having taken over the schools as their own property, paying rent for them, they were to leave them substantially under the control of the Church, because, of course, they were to teach their own doctrines and they were to have teachers who understood their doctrines. They knew what was the very essence of Church teaching. It did not consist in the hymn or the prayer or the Bible. He had heard the Bible referred to throughout the debate by hon. Gentleman opposite as a sort of Nonconformist volume. [OPPOSITION cries of "Oh" and "Withdraw."]

THE CHAIRMAN said he must request hon. Gentlemen not to keep on calling "Withdraw."

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): I trust, Mr. Chairman, you will use your influence with the hon. and learned Solicitor-General to induce him not to make use of unnecessarily provocative language.

SIR W. ROBSON said they had had Bible teaching referred to as if it were a Nonconformist function, satisfactory to the Nonconformists but repulsive in many cases, if standing alone, to those of other denominations. Why should they be told by one of the Bishops that Cowper-Temple teaching, simple Bible teaching, was a dread alternative, and by another that it was the thing they wanted to avoid. If they said these things they laid themselves open to the charge that they regarded Bible teaching as a Nonconformist and not a Church of England mode of teaching, and they were treating it as a Nonconformist creed of faith which was not to be treated as a Church of England creed of faith. The grievance of hon. Members opposite appeared to be that they were not allowed to have in schools which were transferred to the State and for which the State had to pay—that they were not to be allowed to have those schools and those teachers devoted to the propagation of a particular creed of their own. Originally the Party opposite put forward a plea for some kind of equality to be afforded by all-round facilities, but the moment all-round facilities came to be dealt with in this debate they were told that they were impracticable. The contention of hon. Members opposite was grossly unjust to other religious denominations and represented a policy which had been condemned by the country and he hoped would be condemned by the House.

MR WYNDHAM (Dover) said the Solicitor-General had provoked many who sat upon the Opposition side of the House, and it was not the first time that he had used provocative language. The object of the hon. and learned Gentleman's interventions in these debates passed his comprehension. He did not know whether the learned Solicitor-General felt it necessary after the events of last night to fan the fires of religious hatred, for his speech amounted to an expression of hatred towards those who differed from him in religious matters. That sort of speech did not move him to anger. On the contrary he preferred it to much that they had heard on the other side. He should like to have a verbatim report of it distributed as a leaflet at every meeting which they, on that side, addressed. It revealed the real motive behind this Bill and its ultimate objective, and made it plain that the Bill was an attack upon the Church of England. Such attacks were part of the traditional apparatus of the Party to which the hon. and learned Gentleman belonged. They helped the Party when in political difficulties and raised the spirits of those amongst their supporters who believed that the doctrines of the Church of England were false and that the doctrines that they themselves held were true. For men who indulged in persecution on that ground he had some respect, because they thought they were doing good to their fellow countrymen and at any rate they had the courage of their convictions. Theirs was an intelligible position, although old fashioned, but still it was entitled to respect. What he did not think was entitled to any respect was the newer mode of explaining this Bill and clause as really a blessing in disguise to the Church of England, and the designs of the Government as much wiser and better than those of the pastors of the Church, who understood her true interests and how her children might be brought up to be true and believing members of that great and ancient institution. The Solicitor-General had told them that the Nonconformists had done a great work in the slums, but he did not refer to the work which the Church of England had done in those places, although everybody knew that the Church of England had made enormous sacrifices in regard to them. The Solicitor-General had taunted them with regarding the Bible as a Nonconformist volume. He should like the hon. and learned Gentleman to make that statement before some of their meetings in the country. He would find that the interruptions in this House were as nothing to the kind of interruption he would encounter there, in consequence of the stormy passions which such a statement would arouse. How could the hon. and learned Gentleman ask them to believe that this clause was not of an invidious character? It was admitted that Clause 4 would help the Roman Catholic Church more than the Church of England, and that the Church of England must look to Clause 3 for any facilities they might enjoy under this Act. It was admitted that the Free Church Catechism, from the first syllable to the last, would be taught by teachers if this Bill were passed in its present shape, because it was included under Cowper-Templeism. [The SOLICITOR-GENERAL dissented.] It had been subscribed to by four Nonconformist Denominations, Baptist, Congregationalist, Wesleyan and another. This was an invidious clause in an invidious Bill aimed directly at the Church of England. By this prohibition which was laid upon teachers they were returning to methods long since abandoned of naked religious persecution. This disability was put on a large number of men simply because their religious beliefs were not those held by the majority who supported His Majesty's Government. The chief objection to the "all-round" facilities which were to be afforded was that they would bring persons into the school other than the teacher, and that the teacher's place would be taken by somebody else. This, moreover, was only to happen in the case of the Church of England, whose whole system of education was to be uprooted, and the standard of whose religious education was to be impaired, because the Government insisted that in the case of the Church of England, and only in the case of the Church of England, the teacher was not to be permitted to give the religious instruction which he had given in the past and which he desired to give in the future.

*MR. BUTCHER (Cambridge University) said it was remarkable that, while in other respects the freedom of the teacher was most jealously safeguarded, suddenly in this clause they came upon a harsh compulsion, which was exercised only in the case of a teacher in a transferred voluntary school. The teacher on the regular staff was forbidden to give the teaching of the denomination to which he belonged even in the hours set apart for that distinctive form of religious instruction. Surely it was as much an infringement of liberty to forbid a man to teach religion, if he wished to do so, as to compel him to teach it, if he did not so wish. On what grounds could that compulsion be justified? Why must an outsider be introduced when there was a competent teacher on the spot? The Minister for Education rightly set aside one ground that had been put forward in the early part of the debate, that it was in the interest of educational efficiency. His reason was quite different. He said that this was an undenominational Bill, and that if this sub-section was bad, it was "bad with the badness of the Bill itself." If that was so he would put this question to the right hon. Gentleman: Why give facilities at all? And still more, why say, as he had repeatedly declared, that the facilities under Clause 3 were intended to be a reality and not a sham? This sub-section could not have been better framed if it had been specially designed to make the facilities under Clause 3 nugatory. Everybody knew that there were very few persons, especially in country districts, besides the teacher who, between the hours of 9 and 9.40 in the morning, were free to give others religious instruction. The only other persons were the clergyman and perhaps a retired teacher; but of these, again, only a few were qualified to teach effectively. It was a most difficult thing to give a simple Bible lesson to children. How many in that House could do it? He personally had been teaching during a great portion of his life, but he would feel serious doubts as to his own power. The children needed the best teaching that could be got, and it was a wanton wrong to deprive them of the services of the skilled teacher whose heart was in the work. What would be the impression left on the minds of the children when they saw the teacher silenced whom they most respected? They must conclude that the religion of their parents was a mere adjunct, a thing tacked on loosely to secular education, outside the teacher's duties, outside of school hours, something which could not matter much so far as their daily life was concerned. This prohibition affecting the teachers was, in his view, one of the most important features of the Bill. "Who is the teacher?" was a more important question than "What is the syllabus?" Above all, in elementary teaching the first essential was to have a trained teacher. He asked the Committee to contrast the requirements for secular and for religious teaching respectively. The idea of secular education had been deepened and vitalised. New and great demands were made on the teachers. They were not content to accept the leavings of other professions. They looked for men who were trained to their difficult task, trained to patience, tact, and sympathy; men who were enlightened by knowledge, inspired by enthusiasm, whose spirit was quickened by daily contact with the fresh minds of the children; men whose simplicity and sincerity went straight to the heart of the young; who spoke out of a full heart and a full mind and did not serve up fragments of knowledge, old and cold. When, however, they came to examine the Bill they found that in religious instruction it ignored the need of knowledge, of trained sympathy, and of intelligent control. In no part of the Bill was there any direction that the man who taught religion, Cowper-Temple or any other, should possess any knowledge of this subject. And this particular clause silenced by direct enactment the trained teacher who often prized as his highest privilege the right of teaching what to him were living and breathing truths. The clause lowered the place and dignity of religious instruction and would in its working inflict a grave injury on both religion and education.

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said that if anything could have induced him to support this sub-section it would have been the speech of the hon. Member for the Richmond division of Yorkshire, for whom he prophesied a brilliant career in this House. But he differed entirely from the conclusions to which the hon. Gentleman had come. The hon. Member said the chief merit of the sub-section was that by means of coercion it provided a way for teachers being free. He did not deny that there were cases where coercion was needed in order to obtain freedom, as in the case of great industries. But if people sought freedom in that way they must be extremely guarded in the way they proceed. The teachers were denied the right, when they volunteered to do so, to teach the religion in which they believed. He readily accepted the provision of the following sub-section to exempt teachers from religious tests and give them liberty to refuse the duty of teaching a religion they did not feel called upon to teach; but he wished to know on what principle of logic they said that a teacher should not be allowed to teach the religion of the Church of England if he was willing to teach it, and believed in it, while he was allowed to teach Cowper-Temple religion. Was that their idea of freedom? There were many people in this country who did not believe in Cowper-Temple religion, and there were a growing number who did not believe in Christianity in any shape. If a teacher said he could not teach any religion he ought to be allowed liberty to refuse to teach it. But why did they give the teacher liberty to teach Cowper-Temple religion and refuse him liberty to teach Church of England religion? He could not see that at all. The hon. Member had said that if a teacher came to a village school and said he could not teach religion, pressure might be brought to bear on him. But the principle of the Government was this: because Cowper-Temple religion was acceptable to the Nonconformists and a large section of the Church of England, the teacher might teach it, but they would not extend to him liberty to teach Church of England or any other religion. The liberty of the teachers, therefore, was liberty for those who agreed with the Government and not for those who did not. That was not his idea of liberty, and it was not consistent with the traditions of the Liberal Party. The hon. Member for the Richmond division of Yorkshire had said that the rights of Catholics were safeguarded under Clause 4, but that was not true. Clause 4 provided that "where extended facilities are so afforded, the local education authority may also, if they think fit, permit the teachers employed in the school to give the instruction desired." That permission would not be required but for the first sub-section of Clause 7, and that was why they were opposed to it. The sub-section was coercive and interfered with the liberty of the teacher.

*Mr. SOARES said he was lost in wonder at the attitude of hon. Members on the Opposition side with regard to this clause. They had constantly been saying that the Bill was an insult to the Church of England, but the attitude which they were now taking up was an insult to the Church of England parson. What were they asking for ? They were asking that the religious denominational teaching in transferred voluntary schools should be given by the trained teachers and not by the clergymen of the Church of England. What was their object ? Did they allege that the clergyman was unwilling to perform that duty ? The Minister for Education had said that it was the canonical duty of the clergyman to teach the young, and in the country districts they had plenty of time to perform that duty. The clergymen in the country districts were both underpaid and underworked as a rule, and a little more work in this direction would not do them the slightest harm. Did hon. Members say that the Church of England clergymen were incompetent to perform this duty ? The late Patronage Secretary had said they were going to put religious teaching in the hands of those who were least qualified to give it, meaning of course the parsons. Surely if the parson was qualified to teach adults he was qualified to teach the children. Did they not hold children's services and did they not consider themselves competent to hold them ? It was the clergyman's business to teach the young, and surely hon. Gentlemen on the Opposition side were not prepared to say that clergymen of the Church of England were incompetent to do that. A clergyman who was genuinely interested in his work and wanted to take the utmost advantage of his office would be only too pleased to have the young people under his care at the most plastic period of their life, because they would afterwards come to him with their religious difficulties as they got older. Having regard to all the circumstances, he was at a loss to understand how hon. Members could desire the omission of this clause.

*Mr. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor) said that the hon. Member had misinterpreted the position of the Opposition. He had stated that they desired to substitute entirely trained teachers for the clergymen, but that was not so. What they wanted was the alternative of getting the best possible teacher to give specific instruction, and that was the object of this Amendment. If they could get a clergyman, why not allow him to go in ? They did not want to abolish the possibility of having a trained teacher, because if that teacher volunteered, and if, in the opinion of the parents, he was a satisfactory teacher, surely he was the best possible person to undertake the teaching for the discipline of the school. Why should he be excluded by this clause ? Hon. Members had twitted the Opposition with taking up an inconsistent position, but they had failed entirely to realise that their own position was very inconsistent with their former views on this question. They used to hear a good deal about sacerdotalism, and there were perpetual accusations in the last Parliament that the policy of the late Government was nothing else but sacerdotalism. This clause was going to prevent a teacher from teaching this very thing, and it introduced the clergyman or the priest. Was that sacerdotalism ?

Mr. SOARES : Why are you fighting it ?

MR. EVELYN CECIL said he had already explained that the Opposition were fighting for alternatives, and the hon. Member's own position was one of sacerdotalism. He could not congratulate the Ministerial Front Bench upon their defence of this sub-section, for he had expected some argument which would appeal to an impartial mind. What had the President of the Board of Education said? He had merely observed that the Bill was difficult to amend; surely that was a very feeble argument. If they thought an injustice was being done, they were within their rights in making some effort to remove it. The right hon. Gentleman said that the teacher might be able during the time of secular instruction incidentally to bring in a little religious instruction. It seemed to him that it was poor consolation and a poor defence of this subsection to hold that out as an inducement. There was no guarantee that there would even be this incidental religious instruction. The Solicitor-General had made some remarks which caused some irritation, and had said that the policy of the Opposition was grossly unequal. When they considered the provisions of Clause 4, surely everyone of those criticisms could be directed against the Solicitor-General himself. Why was Clause 3 to be excluded in this matter when Clause 4 was included? The teachers who were to teach ordinary facilities under Clause 3 were not to be allowed to teach those ordinary facilities but they might teach extended facilities under Clause 4. He could not see the reason for that distinction, and it was not fair, because it was giving a privilege to the schools under Clause 4 which was not given to the schools working under Clause 3. He could not see any reason for this difference being made except that Clause 4 most specially applied to Roman Catholic schools and was a bid for the Irish vote, and Clause 3 only applied to them in a much less degree. The hon. Member for the Richmond division of Yorkshire had spoken of this provision as a charter of freedom for the village teachers. It was a charter to them to teach what the hon. Member desired, but it was not a charter of absolute freedom. Then, again, this was only a charter of freedom to urban schools and not to rural schools. He did not see any reason why trained teachers should not be allowed to give specific teaching if they were competent, if they volunteered, and if the parents desired it. It would be grossly unfair if this sub-section was adopted.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) did not see how the hon. Member opposite could made out that this subsection was a fair provision. Under it the teacher might be allowed to teach Cowper-Temple religion, but why should he not be allowed to teach any other form of religion? Why should the teacher be allowed to teach only that form of religion, namely, the Cowper-Temple teaching, which satisfied hon. Members opposite? It simply was not fair, and it could not possibly recommend itself to those who did not believe in Cowper-Temple religion. The more one looked into this scheme the more one came to the conclusion that, taken as a whole, the object of the Bill was to endow one form of religion at the expense of other forms. Church of England people, Catholics, and other denominations had to pay their share of the rates, yet in the vast majority of the schools this new form of religion was to be taught and practically none other. That was a one-sided arrangement. It would be much fairer, if they were going to put this disability upon the teacher, to say that he should not be allowed to teach any form of religion at all. There would then be, at any rate, some semblance of fairness. The facilities under Clause 4 might or might not be given. The local authority might or might not allow the teacher to teach any particular religion. They were entirely at the mercy of the local authority, and they were at the mercy of whoever might happen for the time being to be the head of the Education Department. Under these circumstances he really did not see how they could expect that those who did not believe in the Cowper-Temple form of religion should be satisfied with this. He confessed that the whole discussion was fraught with a good deal of embarrassment and pain. There was not the slightest desire on his part or on the part of any Catholic Member intentionally to say anything which would be in the slightest degree offensive to the opinions of hon. Gentlemen opposite. They did not in the slightest degree find fault with those who were satisfied with simple Bible teaching. They were entitled to their opinion, and it had their respect, but they did claim that those who could not accept that particular form of religion should have their opinions respected also, and that there should not be a hard and fast rule laid down that under this Bill, which was supposed to deal with the people of the country generally, making it impossible for any teacher to teach any religion but the Cowper-Temple form. They were going to be called upon to pay their fair share of the rates. They did not complain on that account; all they asked was that as they were going to pay man for man the same proportion as Nonconformists and members of other denominations, they should at least get the same fair play which was to be given all through this Bill to those who were satisfied with Cowper-Temple teaching. It was far better for everyone concerned that there should be a policy of give and take so that there might be the hope of the Bill attaining success instead of being passed in a shape which would leave many denominations dissatisfied, and give rise to fresh agitation and disturbance in the country, and so necessitate the whole matter being re-discussed in the House at an early date.

MR. MIDDLEMORE (Birmingham, N.) said the speech of the Solicitor-General had given very great pain on the Opposition side of the House and they felt that they had been very much misrepresented and something very much like slandered. The hon. and learned Gentleman had spoken of their having a feeling of repulsion to Bible teaching. That was exactly the opposite to what was really the case. They founded themselves on Bible teaching. The Prayer Book was founded on Bible teaching, and so was the Catechism, and they only claimed the right of teaching and interpreting the Bible in their own way. What they claimed for themselves they conceded to every Dissenter in the country. This clause seemed to be the climax of a long series of confiscations of religious freedom and the rights of conscience. Church teaching was to be confiscated in favour of that approved by Dissenters. The rights of Church parents were to be confiscated by and to give place to the rights of Dissenting parents. The freedom of the local authority in acting for the parents of the children was to be curtailed. The children's rights and interests were utterly forgotten and ignored. And now it was the teacher's turn. He was to be straight-waistcoated and to have his liberty abridged. Why should not the teacher have the liberty of teaching what he sincerely believed in to those who were anxious to learn? It was the only thing he could teach well—that in which he believed. If he were allowed to teach it they would double his influence; if they prevented him from teaching it, they would half his influence. Why should they introduce this interloping outsider?

AN HON. MEMBER: Does the hon. Gentleman refer to the clergy?

MR. MIDDLEMORE said he was not specially referring to the clergy. Undoubtedly the clergy would not be able to get in to give this teaching, as they would not have the time. The first thing they would get would be a disorderly class, for the influence of the teacher would be weakened. If they tried to introduce this clause into Scotland it would be rejected with scorn. If they tried to introduce it into Ireland it would be met with rebellion. He believed it would be only possible to maintain it in England if faith failed them, and they were willing to adopt moral teaching without the sanction of worship and of religion.

MR. BIRRELL said there were many Amendments to be considered this evening and he hoped the Committee would come to a decision on this one.

*MR. HAROLD COX (Preston) said that unless there were good reasons it was a strong measure to prohibit a man from teaching what he wanted to teach. One reason given was that the teacher was the servant of the State. A postman was also a servant of the State, and no one would debar him from giving religious instruction in a school. Another reason was that in villages if they allowed the teacher to teach the Catechism they would create a special demand for those who were willing to teach the Catechism and exclude others, and that this would be unfair to the teachers, or some of them. What he suggested was that there would be no disadvantage to the community in having teachers who were willing to teach the Catechism so long as they had other teachers who were willing to give Cowper-Temple teaching. He urged that the clause should be confined to schools where there was only one teacher.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON (Oxford University) said there had been an extreme paucity of arguments from the Government side of the House in support of the clause. There was no argument in the speech of the Solicitor-General. It was simply a denunciation of the Church of England. When the hon. and learned Gentleman said that Churchmen were complaining because they were asked to provide for their own propaganda he failed to remember what the position hitherto had been. All that they asked was that they should be allowed to employ and pay for teachers who were willing to teach. When the hon. and learned Gentleman said that the Nonconformists schools had thriven without the aid of the State he should remember that the very form of teaching favoured by Nonconformists had been provided at the expense of the rates. Under these circumstances a reference to a manual giving the history of elementary education in this country might assist the Solicitor-General. The hon. Member for Barnstaple had dwelt on the duty of the clergyman to teach in the rural school, but he had said nothing of the similar duty that might fall to the clergyman in the urban schools. The hon. Member had said that no hardship could possibly arise from the exclusion of the ordinary teacher of the school from the giving of religious instruction, because the clergyman would come in and teach, but he should bear in mind that there was an appreciable number of rural villages where the clergyman had left the giving of religious instruction with perfect confidence to the teacher who was willing to give the instruction, while he looked in from time to time and occasionally took part in the teaching. There were other cases in which the clergyman could not teach. He did not know whether the hon. Gentleman had himself tried his hand at teaching. If he had he might have found that everyone had not the capacity for it. It was not everybody who could approach the mind of a child in a rural elementary school. This clause had been called a charter of freedom for the teachers. So far from being a charter of freedom it appeared to him to impose a definite disability on the teachers. They were told also that it was a boon to the villages. He really wondered what picture of a rural village was present to the mind of the hon. Member who talked in that way. The squire was not always walking up and down the village streets scowling at the Nonconformists. The clergy were not always preaching against the wickedness of the Nonconformity. Nonconformist children were not always skulking about the streets cowed and abashed in the presence of Church of England children. The great bulk of the rural villages in educational matters were working very smoothly, and they would go on doing so until this Bill was brought into operation, if it was ever brought into operation. Then he thought hon. Gentlemen opposite, and particularly those who represented rural constituencies, would find the change not so much for the better as they supposed.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.) said that an hon. Gentleman who addressed the Committee this afternoon had charged hon. Members on the Ministerial side of the House with inconsistency in the arguments they had brought forward. It seemed to him that there was a great measure of inconsistency in some of the arguments of hon. Members on the other side. The demand made on the other side was that a teacher, if he was to give religious instruction, should have the qualification for the task. That would make it absolutely certain that there must be tests. They could not know whether a teacher was fit to give special religious instruction unless they had tests. There were few Members of the

Committee who would not admit that the two prominent things which this Bill was brought in to meet were, first of all, the existing tests in regard to teachers; and secondly, the question of local control. If this sub-section were cut out of the Bill the tests would be maintained, and that would be a gross injustice to many thousands of teachers throughout the Kingdom. It would entirely prevent their having equal chances of promotion. Unless hon. Members opposite were prepared to maintain that the tests for teachers should still continue he did not see how they could ask to have the sub-section excised. He had no doubt the Committee would by an overwhelming majority reject the Amendment, and by so doing they would get the thanks of the great body of teachers throughout the Kingdom. In a letter in the *Schoolmaster* the writer, who signed himself "High Churchman," said that he loved the Church, but loved freedom more, and he would rather that a hundred were prevented from teaching than that one should be forced against his inclination to give dogmatic teaching.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) said the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk had stated that in the division on this Amendment they would settle the question of religious tests for teachers. He wished to point out that under the Bill there were to be different classes of schools. There would be tests for the teachers in some of these schools. It was very clear, therefore, that in regard to the State-aided schools they would still have a test. The "four-fifths" schools would, under this clause, remain in exactly the same position as at present and they would have exactly the same tests. Turning to the provided schools, the teachers would have to prove to the local education authority that they were able to give undenominational teaching under the Cowper-Temple Clause. Therefore, again, the local authority must have some test. He insisted that that was a distinct endowment of one particular form of teaching as against others. Therefore, they found that in every class of school a test would still remain.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 318: Noes, 191. (Division List No. 181.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen ,Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,SirJ.Williams(Devonp'rt)
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H.(Essex,Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black,ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire, N.E.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce,Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen)
Bryce,J.A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David(MontgomeryCo.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M.Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dilke,Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne,MajorE.Martin(Walsall)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Ellis, Rt. Hon John Edward
Erskine, David C.

Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie,J.Keir(Merthyr Tydvil)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale
Haslam, James (Debyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope,W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G.(Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea,HughCecil (St.Pancras, E.)
Leese, Sir JosephF. (Accrington
Lever,A.Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M. (FalkirkB'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford. W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G.Croydon(Launceston)
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L, G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncast'r
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col. Ivor(S'thampton
Philipps,J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price,RobertJohn(Norfolk, E.)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards,T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Rt. Hn.E.(Dundee)
Robertson,SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands. J.
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann,SirC.E.(Manchester)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant,SirEdward (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer

Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid)
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H.T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beaumont, Hubert (Eastbourne
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brodie, H. C,
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chance, Frederick William
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craik, Sir Henry
Crean, Eugene
Cross, Alexander
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark Govan
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gilhooly, James
Ginnell, L.
Gordon, J (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Sir W. Evans- (T'r Ham.)
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hammond, John
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazleton, Richard
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S Edm'ds)
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh)
Hogan, Michael
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murphy, John
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon N.
O'Malley, William
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Partington, Oswald
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingtn)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Major J. B.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smth, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, F.E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord

Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)
Wilson, J.W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C.B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

*MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) said that the Amendment he now moved was that a teacher employed in a public elementary school should be allowed to be present during the time allotted for special religious instruction for the purpose of maintaining discipline. This Amendment was, perhaps, not so important as others which had been discussed, but it was still substantial. In regard to the schools under clause 4 and the old board schools, no difficulty would arise, because the teacher in that case would give the instruction; but there would be a difficulty in the case of schools under Clause 3 where denominational instruction was to be given on two days in the week. Unless the teacher were allowed to be present during the time that religious education was given the discipline of the school would suffer. Therefore he thought the teacher ought to be present to maintain that discipline. The religious instruction would be given by the vicar, the Nonconformist minister, the curate, the parish worker, or perhaps by a perfect stranger, and although they all must agree that in many cases these people would be able to maintain discipline, yet there would be many cases in which they could not do so. Under Clause 3, two forms of religious teaching were to be allowed and the danger of that state of things was obvious. The Committee ought to have some enlightenment as to whether the inspector of the Board could or could not come into a school where religious instruction was being given. If the inspector could come in why could not the teacher also be present. He begged to move his Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 13, after the word 'school,' to insert the words 'may be present during the time allotted for special religious instruction for the purpose of maintaining discipline, but.'"—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. BIRRELL said that the Amendment provided that the temporal power should be present during the time that religious instruction was being imparted; in other words, that the man with the stick should be there. There was nothing in the clause which prohibited the teacher from being present while religious instruction was going on, and he did not think that it was necessary to insert in the Bill an obligation upon the school teacher to be present. He might be engaged in giving another kind of religious instruction elsewhere.

LORD R. CECIL: Then he may be there?

MR. BIRRELL replied that of course he might be there. It was entirely a matter of arrangement and not one for statutory declaration. He had no doubt the teacher who had to look after the character of his own school would see that he was occasionally present, until such time as these young and unruly persons could be brought to bear religious instruction at the hands of their pastors and masters. He did not think there was any necessity for the insertion of the words. He did not think moreover that the inspectors of the Board of Education had anything to do with this religious instruction. He thought that religious intruction was a very important thing in connection with these schools, and he would be glad if their inspectors were able to give them reports as to the way in which the religious education was conducted. He thought the teachers would be better for the criticisms of the inspector, but the latter had no *locus standi* to visit the schools when religious instruction was being given.

MR. T. M. HEALY (Louth, N.) inquired how, if the inspector might not be present, the clause was going to be carried out.

MR. BIRRELL did not think the presence of the inspector during the hour of religious instruction was in any way necessary to secure full effect being given to the clause. If a teacher gave the religious instruction of a special character which the clause prohibited him from giving, he would be doing an illegal act, and the local education authority could deal with the matter. The inspectors of the Board of Education had never had devolved upon them the duty of inspecting religious education in the schools.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said it appeared that the ordinary teacher must not even strike the tuning fork for the purpose of religious instruction, and what he wanted to know was whether there ought not to be some Archbishop of Cowper-Templeism who would decide whether the unfortunate religious teacher was doing right or wrong. He wanted to put a particular case. Supposing a perfectly conscientious teacher was giving instruction which he thought carried out the provisions of Cowper-Templeism, and the local authority said that it was not the Cowper-Temple form of religion. The right hon. Gentleman declared that the inspector was never going to be present and that it was not his duty to be present. The teacher might be an atheist, and who was to judge between the local authority and him? If there would not be any judge he wanted to know what was the value of this clause. He put that question to hon. Gentlemen below the gangway opposite who thought that they were getting relief from the terrible Church of England. This was really an attempt to blindfold the devil in the dark. The teacher might teach what he liked, and if there was any dispute between the teacher and the local authority and there was nobody to judge, he thought that the last state would be worse than the first.

*The CHAIRMAN said he did not know how the hon. Gentleman was going to end his speech or he would have intervened sooner. They were not dealing with the question of Cowper-Templeism nor even of the supervision of the Church of England. They were dealing with the question of whether teachers should or should not give instruction of a special character, and the Amendment proposed that the teacher should be present at the religious instruction for the purposes keeping orders only.

Mr. T. M. HEALY said his point was that if the ordinary teacher might not be present and the superior authority was not to be represented what was the value of this clause? It was entirely new to him that the State was not going to supervise the carrying out of the provisions of the clause.

Mr. BIRRELL said that religious instruction was no new thing. It had gone on since 1870, and the inspectors of the Board of Education had never had devolved upon them inspection of the religious instruction in the schools. They had never said anything about it and had never criticised it in any way, and under that system Cowper-Templeism had gone on pretty satisfactorily and was likely so to go on.

*The CHAIRMAN said they were not talking about Cowper-Templeism at all, They were dealing with religious training of a special character.

Lord R. CECIL supported the Amendment, which he thought would prevent a hostile education authority from forbidding the attendance of the teacher during the hour of religious instruction and so adding further weight to the burden which denominational religion would have to bear under this Bill. They wished to take care by the Amendment that the religious instruction accorded by the religious teacher should not be regarded with dislike and disapproval by the parents of the children to whom it was given. The teaching of religion might be handed over to someone who might injure the school, and their contention was that the teacher should be allowed to be present to keep order and to show by his presence that he did not disapprove of this teaching. He attached great importance to the Amendment, though he had given up all hope that any justice or generosity would come from hon. Gentlemen opposite. He had entered upon this discussion with some hope that justice would be done, but he had been disappointed. The local education authority might do their best to keep the teacher out, so that the lesson would probably be given under circumstances which would render it of no importance or effect.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 105; Noes, 375. (Division List No. 182.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther,Gray- Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt. Hn.Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J.(CityLond.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach, Hn.Michael HughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cave, George
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Govan
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.
Gordon,SirW.Evans-(T'r Ham.
Haddock, George R.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hammond, John
Hardy,Laurence(Kent,Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS. Edm'd
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staffs'h)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hn. Col.W.
Keswick, William
King,Sir HenrySeymour(Hull)
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn.Walter Dublin,S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Fancis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
M'Calmont, Col. James
M'Iver,SirLewis(Edinb'gh,W.)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,JohnThrogmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
Parker, Sir Gilbert(Gravesend)
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, James Farqhuarson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Stanley, Hon. Arthur(Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Valentia, Viscount
Verney, F. W.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby, de Eresby, Lord
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Ashley and Mr. George Faber.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Acland, Francis Dyke
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P, (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont,Hubert(Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, SirJ. Williams(Devonp'rt
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black ,Arthur W. (Bedfordshire
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, SirJohnT.(Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Buxton, Rt.Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Chance Frederick William
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, SirT.Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, CH(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David(MontgomeryCo.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)

Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W.Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W.H.(St.Pancras N.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone,Rt Hn.HerbertJohn
Gill, A. H.
Glendinning, R. G
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B .
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Honmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S,)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras,E.
Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington
Lever, A. Levy (Essex,Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah(Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E.)
M‘Callum, John M.
M‘Crae, George
M‘Kean, John
M‘Kenna, Reginald
M‘Killop, W.
M‘Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M‘Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M‘Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O‘Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O‘Connor, James(Wicklow,W)
O‘Connor, John (Kildare, N)
O‘Connor, T P (Liverpool)
O‘Doherty, Philip
O'Hare, Patrick
O‘Kelly,James (Roscommon,N
O‘Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce,Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps, J Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price, RobertJohn(Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E .(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H.(Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)

Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James) Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E.
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Mr. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry) said the Amendment he now moved was intended to extend to the teachers the same religious liberty on week days that sub-section (2) extended to them on Sundays. They had heard a great deal about freedom, and abolition of tests, and mandates for the abolition of tests, but his Amendment would give the teachers liberty to do as they liked, and not as the Government liked. The way in which the Government were carrying out their mandate reminded him of the American who said, "We have absolute liberty; everyone does as he likes, and if he won't do it we make him." The right hon. Gentleman said the local authority would be entitled to ascertain whether the teachers were or were not unfitted to give Cowper-Temple teaching, so that the freedom given here was very one-sided. They were not to be free from tests such as Nonconformists desired, but only in such cases where the tests could possibly be of any advantage to the Church of England. There was a good deal of apprehension in the House as to the attitude of voluntary school teachers on the point. He believed that the large majority of school teachers did not wish to be prevented from giving special religious teaching. The Liverpool and District Voluntary School Teachers' Association, which represented over 600 certificated teachers, had, after very careful deliberation, passed a resolution to the effect that in transferred schools the ordinary teacher should not be precluded from giving religious teaching of a special character. He thought that represented the opinion of voluntary school teachers all over the country. He claimed for the teachers the right to give, or to abstain from giving, religious teaching of a distinctive character. He did not suggest that there should be any compulsion in the matter. He wanted to give the freedom to refuse or to agree to give religious teaching which they thought themselves most capable of giving. He thought that many teachers would find it difficult to adhere to the Cowper-Temple form of teaching. Therefore they ought to be free not only to refuse Cowper-Temple teaching but to give special religious teaching with which they had been familiar for years. It was perfectly absurd to say that by giving to Church schools Church teachers they were interfering with educational progress. If there were more teachers than schools, then they might fail to select the best; but there were not enough certificated teachers to go round, and so this proposal could not interfere with educational progress. It was quite possible that the whole of the children in a school under this Bill might wish the same trained teacher to teach them who had been giving them this instruction before. But they could not have that teacher unless they put in some Amendment such as he had suggested. Anyone familiar with village life for any considerable period must have observed that there were devoted and earnest school teachers who, although fully qualified by secular qualifications to take a post where they might have got higher remuneration than in a Church school, had consented to forego such an appointment because of their devotion to their own religion. They should consider the effect that such an example would have upon village life, and then they would be able to realise that by depriving hundreds of villagers of advantages like that they would be doing a vast amount of harm and no good whatever. He earnestly begged the President of the Board of Education to seriously consider the amount of harm this clause would do as it stood, and the amount of good that could be done by accepting the Amendment. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 14, to leave out the word 'give,' and insert the words 'be required as a condition of his or her employment to give or to abstain from giving.'"—(*Mr. Bridgeman.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'give' stand part of the Clause."

MR. BIRRELL said the hon. Member's speech seemed to say over again what they believed to be a misapprehension of the consequences of adopting this Bill. He wished to point out that there was no strict interpretation by law of Cowper-Temple instruction. He thought the hon. Member's dread of local education authorities came with rather an ill grace from him, because he knew perfectly well that so far from desiring to take this view, the difficulty was to get them to take any interest at all in the matter. There was no reason whatever to suppose that they would spend their time going about trying to find out the precise flavour and quality of the religious teaching which was being given by a really good teacher; all they were anxious about was to see that the school was kept in good order, and that there was a large average attendance. He would suggest to the hon. Member, who was most fair-minded, that there was no ground for his fear lest the devoted and earnest teacher, who was such an advantage to the village, would be prevented from giving precisely the same religious teaching which he or she had been in the habit of giving, except so far as that teaching was purely catechetical. They did not think they were interfering with the teacher giving sound religious teaching in accordance with his or her convictions. One of the merits of the syllabus of instruction was that in no way did it put any restraint upon the conscience or upon the utility of the teacher, who was able to give without any restriction whatever, that teaching which his or her good feeling would lead him or her to adopt. This Amendment was really bringing up the same facts as the one already disposed of. The Committee had come to a conclusion upon the question of excluding the regular teacher from the task of giving this facility teaching, and they could not consent to an Amendment which would have the effect of throwing open the door to conditions which they could not admit.

*MR. CAVE said the fact that this clause if passed would silence the teacher was a matter within the knowledge of them all. Devoted men and women had for years past given denominational teaching. This section proposed that they should no longer be allowed to give that form of religious instruction even if they were anxious to give it, and the local education authority desired that they should do so. He did not believe that the majority of the teachers were in favour of this clause. He knew that the Church of England teachers and the teachers of other denominations objected to it. At a meeting of London teachers, at which more than 1,500 of the teachers in London voluntary schools were present, a resolution was passed unanimously strongly protesting against the proposal to forbid the teachers to give denominational instruction and claiming on behalf of every elementary school teacher absolute freedom to give or refrain from giving any religious instruction whatever, denominational or undenominational. That resolution showed that 1,500 London school teachers objected to be shackled in this way. Surely there was no harm in allowing them to continue teaching what they had taught before? Again, how were they going to enforce this provision? He did not envy the position of the Board of Education if the Board was called upon to punish a teacher who ventured to give teaching of this kind. They were claiming freedom for the local education authority to prescribe that their teachers; should or should not teach. Clause 3 teaching was to be a legal form of instruction, and all they were asking for was freedom to give what had already been sanctioned by Parliament. They were asking for this for the sake of the children. Surely it was admitted that whatever teaching was sanctioned by law ought to be efficiently given. The hon. Member for North Camberwell had told them that teaching given by outsiders would not be so good as the teaching hitherto given by the teachers in voluntary schools. The teacher had influence over the school, and loomed large in the eyes of the children; he was most likely to succeed in getting a hold over their minds and in instilling into them the principles of religion. Therefore, if they wanted effective religious teaching it should be given by the teachers in the schools. They wanted this matter left in the hands of the local authority, who would make terms with the teacher for giving secular teaching, and might at the same time agree to the terms under which, if willing to do so, he should give religious teaching. Nobody was asking that the State should pay for this religious teaching, and he thought that some such provision as was contained in this Amendment was necessary.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) said that in the village schools a provision like that contained in the Amendment might affect the appointment of teachers. A teacher might be qualified to give secular instruction but he might not be appointed unless he was able to satisfy the local authority that he was qualified to give dogmatic instruction as well. At the back of all this there was also the position of the teacher declining to give any religious instruction at all, but such cases were so few that he thought they might very well dismiss them altogether out of their consideration. His hon. friend desired that religious teaching in the schools should go on. With regard to the single school in the villages the teaching would be the same in the future as it had been in the past.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order. The hon. Member seems to be discussing the question which was discussed this afternoon. I understand that the Amendment deals only with a requirement or obligation laid down in the terms of appointment. We must not again enter upon a subject in regard to which a long discussion has already taken place this afternoon.

MR. YOXALL said it had been stated that the teachers in voluntary schools as a rule desired to have full liberty with regard to this religious teaching. He wished to point out on the other hand that there were also a great number of people who did not desire that this liberty should be given, and they felt that to give it would interfere with the liberty of a good many other teachers. He could assure the Committee that the teachers generally did not desire this particular Amendment to pass.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 262; Noes, 128. (Division List No. 183.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Alden, Percy
Allen, A.Acland(Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Asquith,Rt.Hon.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnes, G. N.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert(Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W.(T'w'rHamlets,S.Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Brace, William

Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, SirJohnT.(Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, SirWm.J.(S,Pancras,W
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cremer, William Randal
Crosfield, A. H.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col.Alan(Hereford,S.)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W.Bateman(SomersetN
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jowett, F. W.
Kekewich, Sir George
King, AlfredJohn(Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H.(Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, HughCecil(St.Pancras,E)
Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Lever, A. Levy (Essex,Harwich
Lever, W.H.(Cheshire,Wirral).
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, JM.(FalkirkB'ghs
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D.(Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Morgan ,G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson,Charles N.(Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Price, RobertJohn(Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E.(Dundee
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, J.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Tennant, SirEdward(Salisbury
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Thompson, J.W.H.(SomersetE.
Thorne, William
Torrance, A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson

Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, William(Cork,N.E.)
Acland-Hood, RtHn.SirAlex.F.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, RtHn.A.J.(CityLond.)
Barrie, H.T.(Londonderry,N.)
Bethell, J.H.(Essex,Romford)
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boyle, Sir Edward
Brodie, H. C.
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, Rt.Hon.VictorC.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chance, Frederick William
Coates, E.Feetham(Lewisham)
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, A.Cameron(Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Cox, Harold
Craig, Captain James(Down,E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Crean, Eugene
Cross, Alexander
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duffy, William J.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gilhooly, James
Ginnell, L.
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hervey, F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hogan, Michael
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
King, SirHenrySeymour (Hull)
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lundon, W.
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah(Down,S.
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Iver,SirLewis(EdinburghW.
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Meagher, Michael
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore,Jn. (Throgmorton
Mooney, J. J.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James (Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, SirGilbert(Gravesend)
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thomson, W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Bridgeman and Mr. Cave.

*LORD R. CECIL moved an Amendment, the effect of which, he said, would be to forbid a teacher from giving undenominational as well as denominational instruction. It would put the teacher in the position of not giving any religious instruction at all except under Clause 3. He had listened with attention to the debate with reference to this matter, and had endeavoured to ascertain the objections to the employment of the teacher to give the special religious instruction under Clause 3. In the first place it was said that if once a teacher was allowed to give denominational instruction they would introduce tests by a side wind. Were they not introducing tests if they allowed a teacher to give undenominational instruction? He did not believe that any hon. Gentleman, except perhaps the right hon. Gentleman in charge of the Bill, had really made himself acquainted with what undenominational instruction meant. He would take for illustration the syllabus of the county of Cornwall. It was a very elaborate and highly dogmatic form of religion, and it might be shortly described as the Free Church Catechism put in the form of a syllabus. He did not wish to throw any scorn on the Free Church Catechism, but anyone who had read that document would agree with him that it was highly dogmatic. He found in the syllabus a provision that at a certain stage in the curriculum the scholars were to repeat with suitable explanations the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, and other things. Then he found this note—

> "The teacher shall explain the Holy Catholic Church to mean the whole body of Christian people dispersed throughout the world, and the words 'He descended into hell,' to mean that he descended into the unseen world.'"

He would not discuss here whether that was or was not the right interpretation of the words, but it was an interpretation which a considerable number of Christians in this country would not accept, and certainly it would not be accepted without explanation. He did not think hon. Members from Ireland would dispute that proposition. He was not competent to say what all the Members of the Church of England would say, but it was quite plain that the Roman Catholics would not accept the meaning given in the note. Suppose a Roman Catholic applying for a teachership were to say: "I see your syllabus. Am I expected to teach that?" "Oh, yes," said the local authority "You are expected, but you may refuse." What was to happen? Was that a test or not? Were they to inquire whether a teacher could or could not teach that doctrine, or were they to accept him without inquiry? In the case of an agnostic or an atheist, how were they to ascertain whether such a person applying for a post held opinions which would prevent him from giving effectively and conscientiously dogmatic teaching such as was contained in the Cornwall syllabus without submitting the teacher to a test? It appeared to him that under this clause they could not allow a teacher to give Church of England teaching, even though willing, because it would inevitably involve looking about for a teacher who could give that instruction conscientiously. Precisely the same reasoning applied to undenominational teaching. He could not conceive any reason which could come from the Ministerial side of the House which should prompt teachers to give undenominational teaching if they thought it wrong to do so. The argument was brought forward by the Solicitor-General that because teachers would henceforth be State officers they must have nothing to do with denominational religion. Why should they have more to do with undenominational than with denominational religion? It had been argued that to allow teachers to give denominational instruction would be a hardship on the minority. He had never been able quite to understand why it was a hardship on the minority to allow teachers to give the teaching which they believed to children whose parents desired that the teaching should be given. He presumed it was because it put the children in a better position to receive the instruction they desired than the minority children who did not desire that instruction. There were many who would reject and disapprove of the undenominational teaching. He took for the sake of example the Cornwall syllabus, though there were others much more offensive from the Church of England point of view. Unless they accepted his Amendment, they were going to say that the children might be taught that syllabus, and in that sense the teaching was endowed by the State. Were the Government going to say that it was a hardship upon the minority to allow the majority to receive from the State-paid teacher the particular religious instruction which the majority preferred? If they did, he submitted that as a mere matter of logic and justice, that position was absolutely indefensible. If they insisted upon forbidding the teachers in the Church of England schools to give teaching which they believed in and in which the children believed, the Government were bound also to forbid teachers to give undenominational teaching. Otherwise, they would be endowing a particular form of religion with State funds, and the people of England would understand what the Government were doing. [MINISTERIAL dissent.] He did not expect to convince hon. Gentlemen opposite; but he did expect to make some of them uncomfortable. He had had the advantage of discussing this matter with some of the voluntary school teachers, and many of them told him that they were anxious to teach the religion in which they devotedly believed, and which the children were anxious to receive; and these teachers also informed him that the religious instruction which the children received was the only barrier between them and sin and crime. He demanded justice and equal treatment for all religions. If they forbade the teachers to give denominational instruction, then they were bound equally to deny the same privilege to the undenominational teachers.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out in Sub-section 1 all the words after 'instruction' in line 14 to the words 'under this Act' in line 17.'"

Question proposed, "That the words proposed be left out stand part of the Clause."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said that the arguments in favour of sub-section (1) which had been put forward that afternoon had not been believed in by those who put them forward. Amongst others the speech of the Solicitor-General appeared to him to be equally lacking in logic and in taste. It was as offensive as it could be to those who happened to differ from the Government. It showed clearly that hon. Gentlemen opposite objected not to dogma, but to the Church of England. It was an outrage both to the teachers and to the parents of the children that the teachers should be prevented from teaching that which they were prepared to teach and which the children were prepared to receive. The measure of liberty left by the Bill was not sufficient. It was utterly inadequate; but it was a measure of liberty so far as it went. According to the speech of the Minister for Education it permitted full Church of England teaching to be given provided the schoolmaster abstained from mentioning the Church Cathechism. If the right hon. Gentleman was right in his interpretation, that was a considerable measure of liberty and he did not wish it to be restricted, but he objected to the way in which it was put. It would sometimes lead to evasion on the part of the teachers if they were to be allowed to teach the most orthodox doctrine of every denomination provided they refrained from using the formularies of that denomination. He did not wish to restrict what liberty was given and, therefore, while agreeing with much that had been said by his noble friend, he was not able to support the Amendment.

MR. STUART (Sunderland) said he very much doubted whether this Amendment was in order, because the Committee had, at an early period of the discussion on this Bill, decided against secular education. If the Committee would look for one moment they would see that the result of carrying this Amendment would be that in all provided schools there would be no religious teaching at all, because it was not possible to give religious undenominational teaching except through the master of the schools. The only schools in which religious teaching would be given would be those which had facilities under Clauses 3 and 4.

LORD R. CECIL: Why would it be impossible to give religious teaching in the provided schools?

MR. STUART: Because there was only an arrangement under Clauses 3 and 4 for giving the denominational religious teaching which had existed before. He very much doubted whether this was strictly in order, and it was only on account of the Deputy-Chairman allowing it to proceed that he felt it must be in order. He wished to point out, however, that the Committee had decided at an early period of the discussion on this Bill against secular education.

MR. T. M. HEALY said that he had spent a day in looking through the syllabuses of the different education authorities, and he should like to know what was the religion of the Dowager Lady Tweedmouth. The point was of immense importance to Bath, because that lady was to distribute the prizes for religious knowledge to the Bath children.

All these syllabuses involved some form of dogmatic teaching, and the teacher who observed them must have passed some form of religious test. There were some extraordinary things in these syllabuses of a most controversial kind. In a syllabus for the North Riding of Yorkshire amongst the orders to the teachers was one which said—

> "It is sometimes said that in a council school no religious teaching corresponding to such an ideal can be given."

What was the ideal? The same syllabus went on to say—

> "It is historically true that the plain and practical Bible teaching which can be given and often is given in such schools is a powerful factor in the formation of the character of the people. History shows that in the days when our nation has been greatest the Bible has been an inspiring force as a record of God's dealing with man, as a revelation of what God is to man, and what man is to God."

He should like to ask any hon. member present whether he could deny that that involved some form of dogmatic teaching. He was dealing with this matter with a profound feeling of respect, and his object was to show that this was dogmatic teaching, and the very reason why it inspired him with respect was that it was dogmatic. Under the Barrow-in-Furness Council there was a long list of things to be taught and most admirable they were; in fact they constituted a much more complete religious education than ever he got himself in a Catholic school. He agreed that everything depended upon the spirit in which the religious teaching was given. He would like to ask how they were going to get their religious teachers without tests of some kind? In the Barrow-in-Furness syllabus it was provided—

> "In the Old Testament lesson the lives of persons who are considered to be types of Christians and prophetic allusions to the coming of our Lord should be carefully explained and impressed upon the children."

How could any man who was not a believer in some form of religion explain the Bible to the children with regard to the coming of our Lord. How was it to be done? And yet the Committee was told that in Barrow-in-Furness they did not need any tests for teachers. What did it all mean? He perused the syllabuses with the greatest respect for the men who drew them up. He thought they did such men infinite credit, but he said that they necessarily led to dogmatic teaching. He admitted that the Government had a difficult problem in trying to reconcile the various divisions of the Protestant Church into agreeing to have some elementary instruction in Christianity combined with secular teaching, and he ventured to assert that this clause in most cases would turn out to be an absolutely dead letter. There was nothing to prevent the teacher teaching what he liked, as all through the day he could make his views about Christianity felt. He would not support the noble Lord's Amendment in the division lobby, because he thought it was better that the children of Great Britain should get Cowper-Temple teaching than no religious teaching at all, and that if this instruction was given reverently it was a great deal better than that no form of religious views should be expressed. But to state that Cowper Temple doctrine did not involve dogma was to state an absurdity. Instead of attacking the State Church the Government were setting up another State Church. He did not see why the Nonconformists were not entitled to do that. It was like a concurrent endowment, provided that they did not interfere with the Roman Catholics and Anglicans. Therefore while he sympathised with the noble Lord he asked him whether he considered it well to try and deprive Nonconformists of the valuable Christian teaching they would get under the Cowper-Temple form so far as it went, and whether those who were Roman Catholics and Anglicans would not be wiser in confining themselves to doing the best they could for their own forms of faith without seeking in any way to infringe on the Christianity of other sects.

MR. BIRRELL said the noble Lord wanted to prevent the ordinary teacher from giving a kind of religious teaching for which he had no great liking, but which he need not therefore treat with disrespect. Personally he was anxious that these debates should increase the stock of knowledge of the people as to what was really going on. If people knew more than they did as to what went on in the ordinary Church schools and in the Board schools they would really feel that the issues involved in these debates were not so terrible as they sometimes were represented. He hoped that the volume containing the syllabuses would soon be published, because he believed they would have the same effect upon others as they had had on the hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for North Louth, namely, that it would be seen that they had produced no disposition on the part of the majority of county councils in the country to injure the religious teaching of the children. The authorities were anxious under these syllabuses to do the best they could with the children under their charge. The syllabuses made no pretence to divine inspiration, and therefore it was not obligatory on every teacher to treat them as if they were declarations of his own Church. The syllabuses merely indicated the line of tuition the teacher had to take up; they did not interfere with his own spiritual independence, or impose upon him such a serious religious or theological obligation as might be supposed if they were treated as a confession of faith instead of as an indication on the part of the authority as to what it wished to be taught to the children. The Leader of the Opposition had said that the Amendment of the noble Lord had settled the Government, and that they had no answer to it. But the noble Lord had not settled the right hon. Gentleman himself, who claimed the right to differ entirely from him and said he could not support him in the lobby. There again he put it to the noble Lord quite candidly that his Amendments really said the same thing over and over again, namely, to have undenominational schools. But the Government had attempted in the great Protestant schools of the country to allow for a definite kind of religious teaching. He had never used the word "undogmatic" as applied to religion. If they undertook to teach religion without dogma there would be neither a Church of Rome nor a Church of England. The foundations of all creeds were those stupendous dogmas which were taught in every school where religion was attempted to be taught to the children. Personally, he avowed that the Christian teaching which was given in the schools of the country was dogmatic teaching, and that was the kind of teaching which the Government believed could be taught without giving it that denominational flavour whose object was to attach children at the earliest possible age to some branch of the Church. That was where they differed. The Government believed that this teaching could be given so as not to interfere with a subsequent union with a religious community, so as not to emphasise the points on which Christians differed, but to seek as far as possible to unite their attention on those points upon which Christians were agreed. The noble Lord's speech was in favour of secular education. He for one would always protest against secular education. It would be a monstrous and unfair thing, in order to get out of a difficulty, to compel parents to send their children to a school where they did not receive some form of definite religious instruction. He asked the noble Lord, therefore, to take the advice of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition and not to continue this tit-for-tat argument. In this Amendment the noble Lord had not the support of his own side. The hon. and learned Gentleman who had made a study of of these syllabuses and who was a devoutly religious man did not wish to prevent the children of this country having some opportunity of getting from the hands of a devout teacher good religious teaching. Nobody did, and therefore he asked the Committee for God's sake not to do anything that would interfere with a good religious teacher giving excellent religious teaching to the children.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON thought that the right hon. Gentleman had fairly stated the broad views before the Committee. Nobody on the Opposition side of the House had shown any contempt for Cowper-Temple religion and, if they had, a careful study of these syllabuses would have shown them that there was an infinite amount of good religious teaching to be found in them.

MR. LOUGH: You called it municipal religion.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that was so. The form of Christianity approved by the municipalities in which it was taught was emphatically municipal religion and the term was used in no offensive sense. On the other hand, there was a large body of opinion who maintained that it was very desirable that a child should be a member of some religious community, and that he should receive, not only during his school life, but when he went out in life, the teachings of that denomination. He regarded the noble Lord's Amendment as a *reductio ad absurdum*, and he could not say that he desired to see it accepted. But it gave a logical form to the proposals of the Government, which as they stood were neither logical nor just.

LORD R. CECIL said that his Amendment, which had been rightly described as a *reductio ad absurdum*, had been moved more in order to see what was to be said against it than to see it carried. In fact, he did not think he should like to see it carried. He was satisfied with the very moderate argument that had been urged against it. What did the right hon. Gentleman say? The right hon. Gentleman said—"We must have some religion, but we must have a religion which is not confined to any particular denomination." Many hon. Members supporting the Government took the view that it was not a necessity to be a member of a definite religious body, and that, therefore, it was not essential to teach the children that it was part of their duty as Christians to be members of a definite Christian body. The view of many on the Opposition side, however, was that it was essential, if children were to be brought up as Christians, that they should belong to a definite religious body. [AN HON. MEMBER: Which?] It did not matter half so much which, so long as the child belonged to one definite body. He did not believe they would find one in ten of the devout Christians of the country who did not belong to one or other of the Christian bodies. The point, however, on which the Opposition differed from most Nonconformists was not as to whether the child should be a member of a Christian body, but whether it was essential that the main part of its Christianity should be taught in the public elementary school.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said he was afraid the noble Lord was not speaking to the Amendment.

LORD R. CECIL said he was carried away by the desire to explain the views he held on this subject. He would ask leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

LORD BALCARRES moved to omit Sub-section 2. The President of the Board of Education, in his speech to a deputation from the Jewish community, said the intention of Clauses 4 and 7 was that the teachers should remain the same as they were, viz., those who were most qualified to give the particular religious instruction which had hitherto been given in the schools. Since then the right hon. Gentleman had stated in the House that that would apply to the next generation of teachers as well as the existing body of teachers. He had also repeated that he adhered to the statement made to the Jewish deputation. He wanted to know how the right hon. Gentleman's hope was to be realised that the schools should go on substantially as now under full denominational facilities in conjunction with Sub-section (2); and how the denomination or managers, or whoever was responsible for these facilities, in the future would be enabled to ensure that the teachers would be invested with the same rights and status. So far as he was concerned, he had not the smallest objection to saying that a teacher should not be required to subscribe as a condition of his appointment to any religious creed; but he would point out that the provision in the sub-section was not inconsistent with inquiry into the capacity of the teacher to give religious instruction in the Roman Catholic or Church of England faith in order to ensure that he was competent to carry out those particular duties. He desired to have a precise declaration from the Government as to how far the clause carried out the statements made by the right hon. Gentleman both in this House and to the deputation of the Jewish community.

Amendment proposed—

"In page 4, line 20, to leave out Sub-section (2)."—(*Lord Balcarres.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'A teacher employed' stand part of the clause."

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL said that Clause 6 was a great step in the direction of secular education, and taking that clause and Clause 7 as they stood, they would have no guarantee whatever for the religious character of the schools. In the latter clause the Government attacked the teachers. He was greatly struck with the remark of the President of the Board of Education that the teaching profession was becoming a great secular profession. He had always regarded the profession as having a religious as well as a secular side. Any departure from that tradition would be mischievous, and, if carried beyond a certain point, fatal to the interests of the country. He had no doubt the Government were perfectly sincere in their statement that they wished the education of the country to be religious, but what security was there that that could be effected under this clause? Were they quite sure that the schools would not become purely secular schools? Supposing a master or mistress who was selected declined to give religious teaching, they could not enforce it. It was quite possible that in the days not far distant there would be a great disposition on the part of teachers to take no part in religious instruction. Connected as he was with training colleges, he could say that a feeling of that kind was beginning to exist, and he was afraid it might spread. He was by no means certain that if the clause became law the conduct of the schools on the present lines and according to religious principles would not become most difficult. He also wished to know whether the word "instruction" covered religious observances. He had in his hand the time-table of the Bradford Council, which was common to their schools and to the Church of England schools. It began the day in each case with a hymn and the Lord's Prayer, and closed with a hymn and prayer. At the end of the morning school a blessing was sought on the family dinner, and when the school met again thanks were given for the bounty of Providence in supplying that meal. He asked whether these religious observances were included in the religious instruction, and whether it would be possible under the clause for a teacher to refuse to perform that dignified office, so beneficial to himself and the children. If he could refuse to do so the school became, to his sorrow, and he believed to the sorrow of the Government also, a purely secular school. It was his strongest desire to avoid such a contingency.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) hoped the discussion would not be so prolonged as to preclude discussion of sub-section (4) in which the interests of teachers were involved. Unless an opportunity were given to discuss that question now there would be no time on the Report stage.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. LOUGH, Islington, W.) did not think the Committee need anticipate that much time would be taken up on this sub-section. So far as he could gather, the noble Lord was not against it, and, in fact, he hardly knew of anyone who was. The noble Lord had put to him one or two questions in reference to statements made by his right hon. friend the President of the Board of Education. He was sure the Committee would not expect him to deal with those statements. They had often been discussed and explained by his right hon. friend, and any further explanation that was required should be asked of the President. As to the sub-section itself he thought it was one of the most simple, most admirable, and least contentious in the Bill, and it could not but improve the *status* of the teacher, since no penalty of a professional kind could fall upon him through his not belonging to a particular denomination. No one could deny that the suspicion which teachers had that certain openings in their profession had not been given to them unless they professed a certain creed must have a tendency to encourage a profession of religious belief on the part of those in whose minds it did not exist. The hon.

Baronet the Member for Wigan seemed to suggest that in the practical working of the sub-section it might be difficult for the local authorities to succeed in giving religious instruction. He did not think the hon. Baronet need have any fear. The best answer was that the religious teaching contemplated under the the Bill was now being given in 9,000 of the largest schools throughout the country to 3,000,000 scholars in average attendance, without any difficulty of any serious character having occurred in regard to it. The hon. Baronet asked what certainty there was, but it was very difficult to predict with certainty about anything in this world. But he did not think the sub-section would tax the powers of the local authority more than at present. It was clear in the clause that the teacher was freed from every religious test, and any teacher might say that he did not desire to give any form of religious teaching; he need not even give the Cowper-Temple form of religious teaching if he did not desire to do so. On the other hand the Bill provided for the giving of Cowper-Temple teaching in every school if the local authority desired it. He did not think a dilemma would arise if a teacher declined to give this form of religious teaching though the local authority wished it. He admitted that in the case of there being only one teacher such a refusal would create a more difficult alternative, but even then it would not cause any serious difficulty in getting an arrangement made. It seemed to him there would be only two alternatives, one of which would be to select a teacher at the beginning who had no objection to giving Cowper-Temple teaching. [OPPOSITION cries of "That is a test."] Was it not enough to say that in more than half the schools of the country the system was now working satisfactorily?

SIR FRANCIS POWELL wished to know whether the word "instruction" covered religious observance, such as opening with prayer.

MR. LOUGH said that was a question of interpretation. In his opinion it would cover what was permitted under Section 14 of the Act of 1870.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said the Parliamentary Secretary had congratulated himself on having given a satisfactory answer to a comparatively indifferent matter, but he ventured to think this was a matter of importance on which they had received no answer at all. The hon. Gentleman had told them that in many thousands of schools Cowper-Temple teaching had been given with the greatest regularity. He quite agreed, but this clause said that no teacher in future was to be required to give religious instruction, and it was laid down in the Code that the teacher should not be required to perform any duty not connected with the work of a public elementary school. Religious teaching, however, had hitherto been part of the work of the public elementary school, and the teacher's agreement therefore bound him to give that teaching. Under these circumstances it was not a matter for surprise that the difficulty had not yet arisen. But what would happen when the teacher was not required as part of his duty to give any religious instruction? Where was that exemption to be embodied? Was it to be henceforth an extraneous duty, and altogether outside the duties of a teacher in a public elementary school? Had the Parliamentary Secretary ever considered this question, and read the Code in connection with this Bill? Would an agreement requiring the teacher to give this instruction be henceforth an unlawful agreement? Would it be enforceable in a court of law? The relation of the teacher to the local authority was that of employed to employer, but he was not to be required to give any religious instruction. What, then, was the security that any religious instruction would be given? A teacher might say "I am not prepared to give religious instruction." The local authority could not require him to do so. How did the Parliamentary Secretary propose to meet such a case as that?

MR. LOUGH: If one teacher will not give it another will.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON asked what would happen where there was only one teacher assisted by pupil teachers in a rural school. This exemption of the teacher was a general exemption. It was very possible, if this feeling against religious teaching prevailed, that there might be three teachers in a school, not one of whom was prepared to give religious instruction. What then? Or supposing a teacher had agreed to give religious instruction and came down one morning and said he had changed his mind and would do so no longer; could the local authority terminate the contract?

MR. LOUGH said that this method of question and answer was not debate. He thought it would be better if the hon. Baronet would develop his argument.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON thought the hon. Gentleman would consider the clause of more importance if he had studied the Code. Seeing that religious teaching could not be required of a teacher, he wanted to know what security there was that such instruction would be given. He wanted to know what was to happen? He presumed that if any local authority made an agreement with a teacher in which the teacher bound himself to give religious instruction the Board of Education, in the event of dispute arising, would say that the agreement was not binding. If that was so, it was a new departure on the part of the Board of Education. Then he would ask how the clause would apply to contracting-out schools and to certified efficient schools. Would the Board of Education decline to give the Parliamentary grant to the former or would they cease to hold the latter efficient if the managers made an arrangement with a teacher that he should give religious instruction? With the latter part of the clause he was in entire agreement. He had always desired the abolition of tests for teachers where they took the form mentioned in the clause; but, having swept away the actual test, they came to the simple relation of employer and employed, and in ordinary employment it was not called a test if a man was asked whether he was able to perform duties he was engaged to perform. Then he came to schools under Clause 4. Under the Bill the appointment of the teacher was reserved, under all conditions of delegation, to the local authority. But the President of the Board of Education, in his answer to the Jewish deputation and in his subsequent statement in the House, had stated that in the schools under Clause 4 the teaching would go on precisely as it had done in the past. How was that result to be attained? How was it to be ascertained beforehand whether the teacher whom the local authority engaged was capable of giving the teaching, Anglican, Jewish, Roman Catholic, which was required in Clause 4 schools? Some inquiry must be made. Was that a requirement within the meaning of the clause? If the local authority were to make no requirement, they falsified the assurance given by the Minister for Education, and if they made a requirement, they broke through the bottom of sub-section (2) of this clause at once. He wanted to know, too, how it was conceivable that the promise of the Minister for Education to the Jewish deputation was consistent with sub-section (2) of Clause 7—how it was possible to ensure that special religious teaching was given under Clause 4 unless they made such requirement as to religious teaching as this sub-section would render a statutory impossibility. These questions needed an answer, and he awaited the answer with curiosity.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood) said he did not wish to add to what he conceived to be the difficulties in which hon. Gentlemen on the Ministerial side of the House found themselves in regard to the far-reaching and fundamental questions raised by his hon. friend. He wished to ask what was the real meaning and effect of this sub-section. A teacher in a public elementary school would be entitled to a certain fixed salary, which would be paid him for teaching all that was required of him, including payment for such Cowper-Temple teaching as he was ready and willing to give in the school. Supposing the teacher refused to give the Cowper-Temple teaching, was he to be docked of his salary, and if not, what was the effect of this sub-section? If not, the effect would be that his conscience had become, indeed, of a very considerable pecuniary value, inasmuch as by the exercise of his conscientious scruples he would be doing his employer out of three-quarters of an hour of his valuable services without any pecuniary loss. The hon. Gentleman opposite had said that the abolition of tests would improve the *status* of the teaching profession. That was an extraordinary statement, for it amounted to this,—that because henceforth no teacher would be bound to teach religion, the esteem in which he was held would be increased. He could not subscribe to that view. In arithmetic, geography, and other branches of secular education they had most exhaustive tests for the teacher. Inquiry was made as to his fitness to give instruction on these subjects, but the Minister for Education had introduced the extraordinary doctrine that on matters of faith and doctrine, which, by his own showing, were of the greatest possible value in our educational system, no questions were to be asked as to the fitness of the teacher to give even Cowper-Temple teaching. The dilemma in which hon. Gentlemen on the Ministerial Benches found themselves was a very real and practical one. What was going to happen in the case of a school looked after by the local education authority employing only one teacher, if that teacher refused, as he had a right to refuse, to give the undenominational teaching? Was that teacher to be dismissed? It was plain to his poor intelligence that hon. Gentlemen opposite had not practically considered the full effect of this clause. They were faced at every turn by considerable dilemmas. They had given no answer to the most obvious questions which had been put to them, and the Bill, as it stood, would inflict serious disabilities on men had done nothing to deserve them. He hoped his hon. friend would press his Amendment to a division unless a satisfactory answer was forthcoming.

Mr. LOUGH said he did not see any difficulty in answering the questions which the hon. Gentleman had put. He though the difficulties had been exaggerated. The teaching of religion would be put, if he might say so, on just the same basis as the teaching of history and geography. [Opposition cries of "Oh, oh!"] They asked the teacher of history and geography if he was competent to teach these subjects, and they asked the teacher of religion if he was competent in a similar way. What had been complained of by teachers was that however qualified they might be to teach history and geography, and whatever University or other degree they might have obtained, they were not allowed to teach these subjects unless they submitted to a religious test. Now the teacher would be tested in regard to his capability of teaching secular subjects only, and there would be no ignominious test applied to him as in the past. [An Hon. Member: Why ignominious?] Well, irrelevant test if they liked. He used the word in no invidious sense. He saw no difficulty in the questions put to him, and would answer them in their order. The first question was, whether it would be a matter of contract between the local authority and the teacher they were employing to give this religious instruction. It would, and they would see that they got a good teacher. The second question was, If there were three teachers and none of them would give the Cowper-Temple teaching which the local authority wanted, what were they to do? The answer was, they would get another teacher to do it. The third question was, Supposing a teacher had been employed to give this religious teaching, and a contract was made, and after that the teacher changed his mind and would not give the teaching, what would the local authority do? Well, they would get rid of him, and they would get a man who would fulfil his contract. The fourth question was, Whether the teacher who gave religious instruction would be in the same position as had been in the past the teachers who were asked to play the organ, a demand which could not be enforced. The answer was that the teaching of religion would be a duty connected with the school and obligatory under the Act, and therefore it could be imposed. The fifth question had regard to tests. It was asked what his right hon. friend meant by his statement to the Jewish deputation that everything would go on as it had before. He was glad to see that his right hon. friend had now entered the House, so he would leave that question to him.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said the Committee had had a most amiable explanation from the Parliamentary Secretary of the contents of the Bill and of the policy which lay behind the Bill. But though the explanation was amiable, he thought there was hardly a Member in the House who had not been absolutely stunned by it. They really did not know where they were, and he thought the time had come for the Minister for Education to relieve them from the anxieties into which they had been plunged by the speech of his enthusiastic subordinate. He would not deal with the last question to which the Parliamentary Secretary had referred, the only question which the hon. Gentleman admitted he was incapable of completely solving—namely, as to the explanation of his chief's answer to the Jewish deputation. That the hon. Gentleman said he would leave to the Minister for Education. Whether the hon. Gentleman would have been wiser to have left some of the other questions to be dealt with by the same high authority it was not for him to judge, but he might mention to the Minister for Education some of the perplexities of mind to which he had been reduced by the speech of the Parliamentary Secretary. In the first place, the hon. Gentleman had explained that religion was in the same scholastic category as history and geography, in the sense that just as the local education authority required the teacher in an elementary school to teach geography and history they were entitled to require him to teach religion; and just as they were entitled to inquire whether the teacher was competent to teach history and geography they were entitled to inquire whether he was competent to teach religion. The hon. Gentleman had further said that he regarded religious tests as either ignominious or irrelevant—he could not make out which adjective the hon. Gentleman preferred.

MR. LOUGH: Religious tests applied to the teacher of history and geography. That was what I said.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he should endeavour to deal with the increasing confusions caused by the hon. Gentleman as well as he could. The hon. Gentleman's argument now was that it was irrelevant or inconvenient to apply religious tests to a man who was asked to teach geography or history.

MR. LOUGH said he was sure the right hon. Gentleman had no intention of doing him an injustice. History and geography had been mentioned by an hon. friend behind him, and he had simply used the terms to illustrate the hard position of a teacher who, while fully qualified to teach these two subjects, could get no opportunity of doing so unless he was a member of the Church of England. That seemed to him to be a most intolerable test to apply to a teacher of history and geography. He said further that the various subjects should stand on the same plane.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he should try to explain his difficulty to a sympathetic audience. He would take the three subjects that had been mentioned—geography, history, and religion. If a teacher was engaged to teach these three subjects, it was quite clear that those who engaged him were entitled to see that he could teach them. The hon. Gentleman admitted that the local authority were bound to satisfy themselves that he could teach history, and that he could teach geography. By parity of reasoning the local authority ought to satisfy themselves that the teacher could teach religion. He did not think that was denied by the hon. Gentleman. In that case he could not understand why religious tests should be described as either ignominious or irrelevant. The geographical test was not ignominious or irrelevant; nor was the historical test. Why was religion alone of the three subjects mentioned not to be one to which the ordinary methods of investigation were to be applied before the teacher was engaged? That was his first difficulty. The second of his difficulties was much more serious. The sub-section provided that a teacher employed in a public elementary school should not be required as part of his duties as teacher to give any religious instruction. Those words at first sight seemed plain, but after the explanation of the hon. Gentleman they had become extraordinarily obscure. He said that under the plan of the Government it was part of the contract of the teacher that he should teach religion. Up to 10 o'clock that evening he thought that a person who entered into a contract to do a thing was required to do it. He now discovered that although the local authority could make a contract with the teacher to give religious instruction, the teacher who had entered into that contract was not to be required by the persons with whom he had entered into the undertaking to carry it out. He was confident he was not misrepresenting the hon. Gentleman. He had endeavoured to give to the Committee what he conceived to be the effect of the hon. Member's words, and he hoped the Parliamentary Secretary would take that opportunity of intervening if he had in any way misrepresented him. He had been asked what was to be done with a teacher who refused to carry out his contract to teach religion. The hon. Gentleman had given two answers. He had said that the local authority must get another teacher. If teacher A refused to carry out his contract, we must have recourse to teacher B. It seemed to him that so far as religious education was concerned that answer was satisfactory. If teacher A refused to give religious teaching, it was clear that the religious wants of the community would be satisfied if teacher B was found who would do the work which A refused to do. Then, however, the local authority had upon its hands two teachers—teacher A, who would not carry out his contract, and teacher B, who until the contrary was proved might be expected to carry out his contract. If teacher B refused, he supposed there would be a third teacher, C. No local authority, with the passion for economy with which all our local authorities were known to be animated, would like to engage two or three men or more to do the work for which one man was adequate. The problem arose, what was to be done if teacher A had been replaced for religious purposes by teacher B or C? The hon. Gentleman, brought face to face with this problem, rose to the occasion and showed the Committee the way out of the difficulty which had been created by teacher A's recalcitrance. He said simply, "If teacher A refuses to do what he has contracted to do, get rid of him." That was the policy of the Government which came in on a mandate to abolish religious tests. Had they come in on a mandate to abolish geographical tests and historical tests? He thought there was a great deal to be said for the policy. He wished the hon. Gentleman had had the conduct of this Bill throughout. According to the hon. Gentleman, geography, history, and religion were three things which teachers were engaged to teach; on every one of them, he presumed, they might inquire into the question of competence, and on each one of them, he presumed, they might dismiss the teacher if he proved to be incompetent. That was a policy against which he had nothing to say. They on the Opposition side, in total ignorance of the policy of the Government in connection with this clause, would have been completely satisfied if, on this sub-section at four o'clock in the afternoon, the Cabinet had announced what they actually meant in this matter. He did not desire—in fact, he disclaimed the idea—that any teacher should be asked to sign a document embodying religious thought. It never had been done, he did not think it ever would have to be done, and he for his part had not the smallest objection to its being forbidden by statute. He congratulated the Government on having found an exponent of their policy who had given equal satisfaction to both sides of the House, and whose speech was a model of precise lucidity, unmistakable in its terms, unambiguous in its general outline, and he congratulated the hon. Gentleman on having made a speech which he could assure him would allay fears and suspicions which had been widely aroused by the less fortunate interpositions of the Ministers near him.

MR. BIRRELL said he thought the speech to which they had just listened was rather unworthy of the right hon. Gentleman or of the dignity of the subject. The right hon. Gentleman had said he was himself opposed to any tests being required of teachers. If that were so, they might have been spared a good deal of the criticism in which he had indulged. The clause said—

> "A teacher . . . shall not be required as part of his duties as teacher to give any religious instruction."

That part of the clause was a conscience clause for the teacher, and having regard to the nature of the syllabus teaching which the education authorities required of their teachers, he thought it was a very necessary and proper clause. The clause went on—

> "And shall not be required as a condition of his appointment to subscribe to any religious creed."

Everybody knew that in times past many teachers in schools which received State aid and rate aid were required as a condition of their appointment to belong to a particular denomination. Questions were put to many of the teachers in voluntary schools, and they had to pledge their honour that they belonged to the particular denomination. That was a test of the kind most in people's minds at the last General Election. That was the test which this Bill was intended to abolish, and did abolish. The sub-section proceeded—

> "And shall not be required as a condition of his appointment to subscribe to any religious creed, or to attend or abstain from attending any Sunday school or place of religious worship."

Those words were put in to hit a practice prevailing in hundreds of Church schools, where teachers, no matter what their secular attainments, could only get the appointment by promising to go to church and to play the organ at the Sunday school, and otherwise to act as a kind of lay curate. Right hon. Gentlemen opposite were completely mistaken if they thought such conditions did not create in the minds of thousands of teachers a sense of indignity and injustice. Therefore, if this clause got rid of that it would be received with satisfaction at least by the Liberal Party in the country. With regard to qualification, he quite agreed that, supposing a man applied for a position as teacher who had in his leisure written agnostical works assailing the authority of the Scriptures, not in the manner in which they were assailed by high dignitaries of the Church, but in a manner calculated to give offence to those who attached authority to the Bible, then he quite agreed it would be undesirable that such a person should be considered by any local authority as qualified to give the religious teaching contemplated in the syllabuses which had been mentioned. [OPPOSITION cries of: "That is a test."] No, it was not a test. The local authority might perfectly well and safely be left to exercise its own discretion in this matter of the duties which it would impose upon its own teachers. These teachers might, if they desired to do so, protect themselves from any conscientious burden by refusing to give the religious teaching, in which case the local authority would have to find somebody else. In this Christian country it should not be an impossible task to find another person who did not claim this particular conscience clause. But those teachers who were not willing to give the particular teaching required could claim the protection of the conscience clause.

LORD R. CECIL said he really did not understand what the Government meant. They said in the sub-section—

> "A teacher employed in a public elementary school shall not be required as part of his duties to give any religious instruction of a special character."

And now they said if he did not give it it he should be dismissed.

MR. BIRRELL: I did not say he was to be dismissed.

MR. WYNDHAM: Yes, you did.

LORD R. CECIL: What do the Government mean?

And, it being half-past Ten of the clock, the Chairman proceeded, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 18th June, to put forthwith the Question on the Amendment already proposed from the Chair.

Question put, "That the words 'A teacher employed' stand part of the Clause."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 416; Noes, 118. (Division List No. 184.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir

Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury,E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey(IsleofWight)
Barker, John
Barlow,JohnEmmott(Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hubert(Eastbourne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J.Williams(Devonp'rt
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J.H.(Essex,Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, ArthurW.(Bedfordshire)
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, T.D.(Derbyshire,N.E.)
Boulton, A. C. F.(Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Bryce, Rt.Hn.James(Aberdeen
Bryce, J.A.(InvernessBurghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt.Hon. John
Burnyeat ,J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt.Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies,David(MontgomeryCo.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M.Vaughan-(Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson,W.H.(St. Pancras,N.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Ellis,Rt.Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col.Alan(Hereford,S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gilhooly, James
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.HnHerbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant,Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth,R.L.(Caithness-sh.
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, J.M.(Aberdeen,W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, ColonelIvor(Mon.,S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hills, J. W.
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,SirD (Brynmor,Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, AlfredJohn(Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, HughCecil(St.Pancras,E.)
Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich
Lever, W.H.(Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift

Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah(Down,S.
MacVeigh, Charles(Donegal,E.)
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon(Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor James(Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Pearson, SirW.D.(Colchester)
Pearson, W.H.M.(Suffolk,Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col.Ivor(S'thampton)
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E.(Edinb'gh,Central)
Price, RobertJohn(Norfolk,E.)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Reddy, M.
Redmond, JohnE.(Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt.Hn.E.(Dundee)
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, Sir C.E.(Manchester)
Scott, A. H.(Ashton-und.-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edw. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J. W. H.(SomersetE
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. w. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J.W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk,Mid
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
WoodhouseSir J.T.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, RtHnA.J. (City Lond)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. MichaelHugh Hicks

Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Brotherton, Adward Allen
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birm.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Cross, Alexander
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robt. (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants. W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Haddock, George R.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hervey, F. W. F (Bury S Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir J. H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt-Col. A. R.
Long, Col, Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W.
Magnus, Sir Phillip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick P.
Remnant, James Farquaharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J G (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid.)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

The Chairman then proceeded to put forthwith the Question necessary to dispose of the allotted business to be concluded.

Question put, "That the Clause stand part of the Bill."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 364; Noes, 183. (Division List No. 185.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barron, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beaumont, Hubert (Eastbo'rne
Beaumont, W. C. B. (Hexham)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonport
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W. (Bedfordshire)
Bolton, T. D. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Boulton, A. C. F. (Ramsey)
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. D.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs. Leigh
Brunner, Sir John T. (Cheshire)
Bryce, Rt. Hn. Jas. (Aberdeen)
Bryce, J. A (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cairns, Thomas
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, H Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, W.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W. J. (S. Pancras, W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H (Sussex, E. Grnist'd

Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Cross Alexander
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, David (MontgomeryCo.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H. (StPancrasN.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dodd, W. H.
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, J. H. (York, Otley)
Dunne, MajorE.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan(Hereford, S
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grove, Archibald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r.
Harmsworth,R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh.
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, J.M (Aberdeen, W.
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W.Bateman(SomersetN.
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Illingworth, Percy H.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D.Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley Hudson E.
Kekewich Sir George
Kincaid-Smith Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lamont Norman
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras,E.)
Leese, Sir J. F. -(Accrington)
Lever A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launcest'n
Marnham, F. J.
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. H.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T.B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncaster
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Whomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce William (Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir W. D. (Colchester)
Pearson, W.H.M(Suffolk,Eye)
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Col. Ivor(S'thampton
Philipps, J.Wynford(Pembroke
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C.E.(Edinburgh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfork,E.
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (WMonm'th
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mton)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridsdale, E. A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, SirGScott(Bradford
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers F. E, Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scarisbrick, T. T. L.
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Schwann, SirC.E(Manchester)
Scott, A.H.(Ashton underLyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.

Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowdon, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Sutherland, J. E.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edw. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, DavidA. (Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R.(Leicester)
Wallace, Robert
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D.S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, H. J. (York, W. R.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestershire)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk Mid
Wood, T M'Kinnon
Woodhouse, SirJ.T(Hudd'rsfi'd
Yoxall, Thomas Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Ambrose, Robert
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Aubrey-Fletcher Rt.Hon.SirH.
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. HnA.J.(CityLond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Baring, Hon. Guy (Winchester
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. Michael HughHicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W, Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hon.VictorC.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John J. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn.J.(Birm.)
Coates, E. Feetham(Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Cox, Harold
Craig, Captain Jas. (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Crean, Eugene
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dillon, John
Dixon-Hartland, SirFred Dixon
Donelan, Captain A.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, Robt. (Lanark,Govan
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fabe, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gilhooly, James
Ginnell, L.
Gordon, J. (LondonderrySouth
Gordon, SirWEvans-(T'rH'mlts
Haddock, George R.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Hardy, Laurence(Kents,Ahford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Hervey, F.W.F.(BurySEdm'ds)
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hill, HenryStaveley(Staffordsh
Hills, J. W.
Hogan, Michael
Hornby, Sir WilliamHenry
Houston, RobertPaterson
Hunt, Rowland
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt.Hn. Sir John H.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hon.Col.W
Keswick, William
Kilbride, Denis
King, Sir Henry Seymour(Hull
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Lockwood, Rt.Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, SirLewis(Edinburgh,W
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, JohnThrogmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Mooney, J. J.
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.

Murphy, John
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Neill, Hon. Robert Torrens
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rasch, SirFrederic Carne
Ratclff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John FrederickPeel
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E(Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford, East)
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv
Thomson, W. Mitchell(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Wolker, Col. W. H. (Lancash.
Walrond. Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Williams, Col. R. Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes — Sir Alexander Acland Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Whereupon the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report progress; to sit again to-morrow.

EDUCATION (ENGLAND AND WALES) [EXPENSES].

Resolution reported: "That it is expedient to authorise the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of an additional annual grant, not exceeding £1,000,000, to be distributed among local education authorities in pursuance of any Act of the present session to make further provision with respect to education in England and Wales, and of the remuneration and expenses of the Commissioners appointed under such Act."

Resolution read a Second time.

Question, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution," put forthwith, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 18th June, and agreed to.

GREAT NORTHERN (IRELAND) AND MIDLAND RAILWAYS BILL [Lords] (By Order).

Read a second time, and committed.

Mr. J. MACVEAGH (Down, S.) said that in moving the Instruction which stood in his name, it was necessary, for the information of those Members who are not acquainted with the circumstances, that he should state the reasons why he and his colleagues thought it should be adopted by the House. In the first instance he would deal with the objection which the promotors raised. The railway companies urged that it would be unfair on the part of the House to dictate to a limited liability company as to how it should appoint its clerical staff. The answer to that was obvious. Railway companies came to this House for powers, privileges, and monopolies, and this House had a perfect right when conferring such monopolies to attach any restrictions and conditions it might think fit. The powers conferred were not in the nature of a gift. They were a public trust; and it was not only the right but the duty of Parliament to see that the trust was exercised wisely and to the public interest. He should show that the Great Northern Railway Company of Ireland had not used its trust, so far as its appointments were concerned, either wisely or in the public interest, and upon that ground they asked the House to restrain this Company from further abusing the trust reposed in it. The second line of defence was that there was no precedent for imposing this condition on railway companies. That was true. But if no such condition had been imposed on any English company it was because no English railway company would dare to act as the Great Northern of Ireland had acted, and he had not the slightest doubt that when the House heard the facts it would decide that if there was no precedent, it would at once create one. In any event, they were dealing not with England where, as he had said, such abuses would be impossible, but with Ireland, and in Ireland there were plenty of precedents, for every important Irish railway except this one had already voluntarily adopted the system of open competitive examinations. What was their complaint? This was a new Parliament, but it was already old enough to have learned, from the performances of the Ulster Unionist Members, that the real reason of the opposition to Home Rule was the fear that their political and religious ascendency in Ireland would pass away. He thought it was Byron who said of Irish landlords that their being, end, aim, existence, was rent, rent, rent; and, paraphrasing that, one might say of the Irish Unionists that their being, end, aim, existence, was jobs, jobs, jobs. Not content with holding nine out of ten patronage appointments under Government in Ireland they controlled the appointments to all the Irish railways and nearly all the banks, which thus became a close preserve of the little ascendency gang; but public opinion asserted itself and the other chief railways thought it wiser to end this bigoted system and to throw their clerkships open to competition. Only a few weeks ago the Nationalist Members had opposed the Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Bill, although his hon. friend the Member for North Wexford was one of the directors, until the hon. Member and his colleagues agreed to do what they asked the House to compel the Great Northern Company to do now They had no complaint against the Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Railway, and their only reason for taking that step was that they desired to treat all railway companies, whether their directors were Nationalists or Unionists, with absolute impartiality The Great Northern was the only Irish Railway which feared the terrible consequences of competitive examinations. It stood shivering on the brink but was afraid to take the plunge, and he hoped the House would assist it in arriving at a right determination. He had in his possession full details of the salaries paid in all the departments of the company, but he should not weary the House with details. He might say, however, that in whole departments there was not one official who professed the political or religious faith of the overwhelming majority of the Irish people, of the population of the districts through which this railway ran and of its customers. Was not that an extraordinary coincidence? The salaries paid at the Dublin terminus—he did not include the weekly wages of workmen—amounted to £21,130 and only £720 went to officials sharing the predominant religious opinions of the country. At the Belfast terminus, it was the same story; the idolators got £895 out of £7,862; whilst in the manager's office, in the secretary's, in the cashier's, in the engineer's, there was not even one individual who did not subscribe to the Thirty-nine Articles or their equivalent. There were sixty-eight officials drawing salaries of £150 or upwards, and with one solitary exception none of them could by any possibility be suspected of want of loyalty to the glorious, pious and immortal memory of William the Third. These figures were too remarkable to be accidental, and were strongly at variance with the results of every competitive examination in Ireland. He had read in an Orange paper published in Befast that if their demands were conceded the loyal minority would be driven out of Ireland. Well, if the loyal minority could not stand the test of competitive examinations, it was the only argument he ever heard for their extermination, and he regretted that such an argument should come from a Party that claimed to have two-thirds of the wealth, three-fourths of the patriotism, and an absolute monopoly of the intelligence of the country. He was told that it would be said on behalf of the promoters that they already had competitive examinations, but if that were so, why did they issue the other day a statement to Members of this House to the effect that competitive examinations would be undesirable? Why did they oppose and reject at the last half-yearly meeting of shareholders a resolution for competitive examinations? The Chairman and the General Manager attended a conference summoned a few weeks ago by the Chairman of Ways and Means, and made no such impudent assertion then. On the contrary, they entered into an agreement with the opponents of the measure to establish immediately such examinations, and within forty-eight hours, with scandalous breach of faith, they repudiated the proposals which they had put forward in their own handwriting. The examinations they held were merely qualifying examinations, subject to nomination; and these were in no sense of the term either open or competitive examinations. The promoters had aggravated that breach of faith by circulating a statement to members setting out that this was essentially a matter for the proprietors, and giving figure, by which they alleged that this demand was rejected by the shareholders. He denied that it was a matter only for the shareholders; it was a matter for the Irish people and for this House; and the figures of the alleged division amounted to a scandalous and wilful falsehood and a deliberate attempt to deceive this House. There was no vote whatever on that Motion, for the simple reason that the Chairman arbitrarily, and to his mind illegally, refused a poll, and the poll, as the promoters well knew, was on the question of bringing forward three Bills in Parliament. As for the claim that the directors should be allowed to disqualify any candidate for general unfitness, they resisted it because they knew how that power would be used. The Civil Service did not claim any such veto, and it was quite unnecessary. The competitive examination would test the youth's intellectual fitness, the medical examination would test his physical fitness, and if he was found generally unsuited he could be dismissed. The only other test that could be applied was that of personal beauty, and he objected to setting up the Great Northern directors as beauty specialists. If it were applied to the management of the line, the general manager might escape, but there would, he feared, be a few vacancies on the board; and, personally, although he could sit in that House, he would under a beauty test be ineligible for a Great Northern clerkship. The remedy they proposed was a very simple one. They asked for neither favour, nor preference, nor ascendancy, for they were not going to destroy one ascendancy in order to establish another; but what they did ask for was a fair field and no favour, and let the best man win. The whole Civil Service of the country was based on open competition, and despite all the dangers and terrors of that system, the Empire still survived, and was dragged like King Charles' head into every speech that an Ulster Unionist tried to make. Competitive examinations prevailed in all the other Irish railways, and in the Dublin Corporation; and last year, even under a Conservative Government, the Belfast Corporation, when it came to this House, had to accept the principle. Their proposal would remove many abuses, and would inflict no injustice on any human being. They asked the House not to sanction the continuance of a system that was part of a religious ascendancy—an ascendancy, let him remind hon. Members, which pressed upon Irish Nonconformists almost as severely as it did upon Irish Catholics. If an English railway company, with a board of directors who were all Churchmen, resolutely set themselves to exclude Nonconformists from their service, this House of Commons would give them short shrift; and as this was a Parliament that put in the forefront the doctrine of "no religious tests," he felt sure that it would not hesitate to say that it would no longer tolerate the application of religious tests to clerks of this Irish railway company. He begged to move.

MR. DODD (Tyrone, N.) said he seconded the resolution of the hon. Gentleman with much pleasure. He should have thought that the Great Northern Railway would have been only too glad to have accepted such a resolution. If it was asked why this was pressed upon the Great Northern Railway Company he would say it was because it had got a monopoly from the State. Its lines extended over a very large part of Ireland, and it employed a very large number of men. Therefore they thought it was only right that the Nonconformists and Catholics of Ireland should have an equal chance of obtaining employment in that undertaking. He hoped the Instruction would not be opposed. He recognised gratefully the benefits which the railway had conferred on Ireland in opening up the country, and he was very desirous that this Bill should be read a second time and passed. He considered the Instruction a reasonable one, although of course they recognised that there were some situations which were above competitive examination as well as others which were below it; but inside those two limits a great company like the Great Northern Railway Company of Ireland should not object to such a reasonable suggestion as this. It was a legitimate claim to make that vacancies should be filled by the successful candidates in competitive examinations, and he should have thought it would be a great relief to the company itself not to have to exercise patronage of this kind. Perhaps some hon. Member on the other side would relieve the Committee from the obligation to discuss this matter by giving an undertaking that the railway company would accept the Instruction. Of course they must have a proper undertaking, and he would like the hon. Gentleman who gave it also to say that the proxies at the next general meeting of the company would not be used for the purpose of defeating the undertaking given in this House.

Motion made, and Question proposed. "That it be an instruction to the Committee on the Bill to insert a clause providing that all future appointments to clerkships of the Great Northern Railway (Ireland) and of the Midland Railway in Ireland shall be made only after and as a result of open competitive examinations; that the examinations shall be conducted by two examiners, whose remuneration shall be fixed by the Committee, one of the examiners to be appointed by the Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, or the head of any other educational institution, and the other by the Rector of University College, Stephen's Green, Dublin; that the vacancies shall be filled in the order of merit of the candidates, as reported by the examiners, subject to medical examination; and that due notice of such examinations shall be published in at least four Nationalist and four Unionist daily papers in Ireland. —[*Mr. Jeremiah MacVeagh.*]

MR. GORDON (Londonderry, S.) said the Instruction which had just been moved was an absolutely unprecedented proposition to place before the House. When any public company came to Parliament for power to carry out a scheme the questions to be considered were those immediately connected with the scheme itself, and if the House of Commons were satisfied that the company applying for such powers had violated some great principle and had not kept within the powers which they already possessed, they had a perfect right to reject any Bill promoted by that particular company. But when a company asked for something which was reasonable, he thought they were entitled at any rate to have the opinion of a Select Committee upon their measure. The case was, however, different with regard to matters which were extraneous and outside the ambition of the Bill itself, and in reference to such matters this House had not been in the habit of entertaining Instructions. They had now before them a Bill which had passed through the other House, and it was a measure which could not be objected to in regard to its principles or the objects and aims which it sought powers to carry out. The Bill was intended to do good service to the people of County Donegal. It would relieve some of the baronies in that county of their guarantees, and would also hand over a certain sum of money to the Treasury. What the company had to do in return was to take over two little lines in Donegal, both of them having baronial guarantees. These lines were making a little profit, and the Government had advanced money to build them, but in return for this the company undertook to pay to the Government a certain amount of money in lieu of those profits. Outside this House it would be regarded as intolerable that the management of the private affairs of a company should be dictated by any outside body. This Instruction proposed to insert into the Bill a clause in regard to matters connected with the railway which did not appertain to the public at all. He wished to point out that this company did not profess to provide all these facilities as philanthropists, but as a money-making concern. The House was now being asked to put a restriction upon the control of the company over its own affairs such as had never been asked for before in Parliament. ["No, no."] Well, he had only heard of one similar instance, and that was in the case of the Belfast Corporation when they were seeking powers to buy the tramways. But what a difference there was between the two cases. The Belfast Corporation were going to use the money of the ratepayers who had no control whatever in the matter, and they were being compelled to submit to the Belfast Corporation borrowing money upon the credit of the rates to work the tramways, and, naturally, they asked for a provision to be put in as to the appointment of clerks. In the present case no person was compelled to take shares in the company, and he did not think that the House ought to put upon the management of a distinctly commercial undertaking such conditions as went beyond anything that had been done before. What was the avowed objection put forward? It was a question of religion. The next time such a measure was brought forward they might have an Instruction moved that the directorate must have upon it a certain number belonging to one Church, and a certain number belonging to another Church, or to some particular Party. When the House was asked to do this kind of thing in the interests of a particular political Party what would be the state of things when another political Party came into power and attempted to reverse the order of things? He, therefore, asked the House to pause before sanctioning the beginning of a process which it was very difficult indeed to see the end of. In this House Parties changed, and it was not long ago that Parties had changed.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Thank God.

MR. GORDON said they might change again before long and then the Nationalist Party would not get everything. If the House was going to allow itself to be carried away from the consideration of important matters by interruptions of that sort when measures necessary for the development of Ireland were brought forward it would be a very great misfortune. It had been stated that certain sums of money had been paid to Roman Catholics. He had inquired into this matter, and the directors informed him that they did not know anything about the matter. [Cries of "Oh" from the NATIONALIST Benches.] It was by interruptions of that kind that hon. Members below the Gangway hoped to carry this measure through. The directors were men whom the people of Ireland knew very well, and they had assured him that they did not know anything about the accusation which had been made and they had no means of knowing. The appointments were made at the present time by examination, and why should they not be allowed to appoint the best men they could get? Did anyone think for a moment that a body of intelligent men working a large concern like this successfully would fail to get the best men they could because some of them belonged to the Roman Catholic Church and others were Protestants? As business men their first aim was to get the best men they could and obtain the best value they could for their money, and that was what was being done by this company. He was inclined to think that if the Chairman of Ways and Means had been present he would have disagreed with what had been stated by the hon. Member who had moved this Instruction. The hon. Member had stated that the representatives of the railway company entered into an agreement to grant this competitive examination; but what actually took place was that the matter was discussed with the only two representatives of the company who were present, and they stated that although they could not bind the company they would bring forward a scheme for competitive examinations. [An IRISH MEMBER: Nothing of the kind.]

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I was present, and nothing of the kind occurred.

MR. GORDON said he was instructed to that effect. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: What is the fee on your brief?] He had inquired, and he had been told, upon authority which he believed, that all that happened was that these gentlemen made that offer but said they could not bind the company. There were only two of them present representing the company, one of them the chairman of the company and the other the manager, and how could those two gentlemen bind the whole board of directors or the shareholders? All they said was that they would put it before the shareholders. ["No, no."] That was at any rate what he was informed actually took place. The directors of the company were perfectly willing and they had themselves put forward a scheme which they were willing to put before a meeting of the shareholders and recommend for their approval. Beyond that they could not go, and he did not think this House ought to ask them to go any further. They were quite willing to give that undertaking. The appointments were made by competitive examination at the present moment. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: They are not.] He thought the directors knew their own business and that was what they had told him. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: Then they have instructed you wrongly.] This was a matter which was more within the knowledge of the board of directors. Was it reasonable to insert an Instruction that certain persons outside this House and outside the company should be the persons to appoint the examiners? The terms which the directors were willing to offer were that they had prepared a scheme dealing with the appointment of clerks which they had resolved to submit at the next half-yearly meeting, and they would use their best endeavours to have it confirmed. When the directors said that, he thought that even the hon. Member for South Tyrone would agree with him that they might be trusted to carry out anything which they undertook to do. Surely that statement was not capable of any double meaning.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE Carnarvon Boroughs): Does that mean that the directors will use their proxies in favour of the scheme?

MR. GORDON: Yes. He was very glad of that interruption, and he could assure the right hon. Gentleman that the directors intended it to be a real compromise. He would now leave the matter entirely in the hands of the House, and he hoped it would be dealt with as a matter of principle. He hoped the abuse which had been indulged in would not operate upon the House or influence them to do something which would be a great injustice to a great commercial undertaking.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said the House would be under some difficulty in dealing with this matter unless they had some authoritative statement on behalf of the railway company. The hon. Member for South Londonderry had spoken with authority, because he had told them that he had spoken from instructions. When the hon. Member rose he entertained the hope that he would have approached this question in an entirely different spirit and that he would have been able to give, not only in the letter, but also in the spirit of his speech some undertaking that they could accept. But the whole spirit of the speech of the hon. and learned Member was a protest against any interference with this company at all. The House of Commons was dealing with a Bill introduced by the company asking for certain powers, and yet the hon. and learned Member spoke of this House as an outside body, and protested against an outside authority interfering in the management of the company. All that they were asking for in this matter was that this company should do what all the other railway companies had already done voluntarily. The hon. and learned Member seemed to be under the delusion that the action of the Nationalist Party in this matter was animated by a desire to have in the employment of this company a certain number of Catholics and a certain number of Protestants. The hon. and learned Gentleman said that the object of the railway company was to have the best men possible in the employment. What was asked was that there should be a system of competitive examination which would provide for the engagement of the best men. With reference to the question of the religion of those employed, all he had to say was that it was monstrous for the hon. Gentleman to ask the House of

Commons to assume that in the employment of this company there could not be found even one per cent. of men of the religion of the majority of the country fit to carry out the work. [Cries of "No."] Yes; the hon. and learned Gentleman's speech amounted to that. The hon. and learned Gentleman's argument was that the company employed the best men they could get. Not one per cent. of these men were Catholics.

MR. GORDON: My statement was that the directors did not know the religion of the men. They do not know whether these figures are correct or not. I entirely repudiate the idea of the hon. and learned Gentleman that I said that.

MR. J. REDMOND said he could not see that the interruption of the hon. and learned Gentleman affected his argument. If on examination it turned out that not one per cent. of the men were Catholics, it followed, therefore, that in the opinion of the railway company Catholics were not competent for the carrying out of the work. That was a monstrous assumption to make. All that he and his friends were asking in this matter was that this railway company should do what the Great Southern and Western Company and the Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Company had done voluntarily. What was the objection to this railway company undertaking to do what the other railway companies had done? He had hoped that the hon. and learned Gentlman would be able to give an assurance which would have satisfied his hon. friends, but as he had not done so he hoped the Instruction would be pressed to a division.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.) asked the hon. Member for South Down to withdraw the instruction in view of the assurance which had been given. In many parts of Ireland there was far too little railway communication, and it would be a great pity if this House were to-night to cripple railway communication by passing the Instruction on the Paper, which had really nothing to do with the Bill actually before the House. The Chairman of Ways and Means was absent, but if he had been here, he was quite sure the hon. Gentleman would have explained to the House that such an Instruction in connection with a Bill of this sort would not in the ordinary course be a proper one to send to the Committee. He thought the assurance given by his hon. and learned friend should suffice to assure the House that so far as this railway company was concerned there was no desire to do anything which was not perfectly fair and above board. He sincerely hoped the House would treat the matter in a large spirit of tolerance and sympathy. He also hoped that someone on the Front Bench would state the views of the Government on the matter.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said he had hoped that the representatives of the railway company would have met some of his Nationalist friends and that they would have seen their way to deal with what he considered to be the grievance made out in respect of the way in which the Great Northern Railway Company had acted. He confessed that after listening to the speech of the hon. and learned Gentleman he was completely disappointed. He had understood that the directors of the company were prepared to meet hon. Members in a conciliatory spirit, but, instead of doing so, the hon. and learned Gentleman had made and delivered a speech which made it absolutely impossible for his hon. friends from Ireland to accept the assurance given at the end. In an assurance of that character everything depended on the spirit in which it was made. If the hon. and learned Gentleman represented the directors—and he had good reason to think that he did, not merely inside the House, but outside—he must know what was inside their minds, and what were exactly their views on the matter. He had explained their policy in one of the most intolerant speeches he had ever heard in the House. He was not at all surprised that the hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Waterford was absolutely unable to accept an assurance couched in such language. The facts were perfectly notorious. They were summarised by the hon. Member for South Down in the figures he gave. Of the £21,130 paid in salaries at the Dublin terminus—exclusive of weekly wages to workmen—only £720 was paid to Catholics. Of the £7,862 paid in salaries at the Belfast terminus only £895 was paid to Catholics. The only answer given by the hon. and learned Gentleman to that very grave accusation as to the way in which the railway company dispensed its patronage was that the director did not know the religion of the men. The railway company knew for weeks that this case was to be investigated when they came to this House for additional powers, and the hon. Gentleman opposite knew perfectly that the charge that was made by hon. Gentlemen from Ireland was true in substance and in fact.

CAPTAIN CRAIG said he knew nothing of the kind.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE said that at any rate the hon. Gentleman had been in full possession of the facts. It was said that this was a very novel proposition, but then they were dealing with very novel circumstances. All that was asked was that the practice which had been initiated by other railway companies should be followed by the Great Northern Company. Under the circumstances he had no option except to support in substance the instruction which the hon. Member for South Down had moved. He proposed, however, to amend the instruction by leaving out the words "after competitive examination" with the view of inserting "held in accordance with such conditions as the Committee may prescribe."

Amendment proposed—

"In line 5, to leave out the words from the first word 'examinations,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'held in accordance with such regulations as the Committee may prescribe.'"—(*Mr. Lloyd-George*)—instead thereof.

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

SIR E. CARSON (Dublin University) said that the right hon. Gentleman who, he supposed, appeared in his position as President of the Board of Trade, although it was difficult to imagine so, had said that the speech of the hon. Member for South Londonderry was one of the most intolerant he had ever listened to. The right hon. Gentleman was a good judge of intolerant speeches, and he thought he could call to mind many more intolerant speeches than that of his hon. friend which had been made by the right hon. Gentleman. The Instruction which had been moved would compel the Great Northern Railway to change their whole method of appointment of their staff when their undertaking was taken over by the Midland Railway. From what he knew of the matter, many shareholders would think that it was not worth while to take over these two baronial railways at the price which the President of the Board of Trade put upon them.

MR. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): Your days of bullying are over.

SIR E. CARSON said he did not suppose that the hon. Member who made that interruption, which he heard imperfectly, would suppose that any insolence or abuse would affect him.

MR. KILBRIDE: No; we all know you in the coercion courts.

SIR E. CARSON said it was perfectly plain to anyone who had followed Private Bills dealing with Irish railways this session that those responsible for the undertakings could not expect to get anything like the fair and orderly treatment which railway companies in other parts of the United Kingdom obtained. He thought the promoters of thes Bills ought to remember that, as in the Rathmines case, the question of bigotry would be the sole question which would be considered. Promoters ought to know that whereas in other cases they would have the Chairman of Committtes expressing his views, in the case of an Irish Bill that hon. Gentleman would run away for fear of having to express any opinion at all. The presence of the hon. Gentleman would have been welcome in this particular case because the discussion had turned upon a conference which was said to have taken place in his presence, various accounts of which had been given by those interested in it. The railway company had, through the Members who had spoken, made a very fair proposal. They said they had drawn up a scheme for appointment by competition. They would submit it to their shareholders and do their best to get them to accept it. Anyone would suppose that that was a fair proposal, but the President of the Board of Trade had made a speech as if he were sitting below the Gangway instead of trying to bring about some arrangement which should give satisfaction and have regard to the feelings of the shareholders. The truth of the matter was that the President of the Board of Trade looked at this question in a purely partisan way. He cared nothing about the shareholders and directors, and in the great position to which he had attained—which many of them were glad he had attained to—he thought it consistent with his dignity to show that he was only anxious to gain the cheers of hon. Members below the Gangway. He did not think such conduct was worthy of the right hon. Gentleman in a purely business matter. He believed that if any other railway company had come before the House and said they had formulated a scheme and they thought their shareholders should have an opportunity of expressing an opinion upon it the House would not have hesitated to say that that was a perfectly fair proposal to make. Of course, however, if the House voted for the Instruction the Great Nothern Company would have the opportunity of considering whether they would proceed further with the Bill.

Question put, and negatived.

Words added.

Main Question, as Amended, put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 161; Noes, 31. (Division List No. 186.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Ambrose, Robert
Astbury, John Meir
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Billson, Alfred
Boland, John
Brace, William
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Bryce, J. A (Inverness Burghs)
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, J. D. W.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex E Grinst'd)
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Crean, Eugene
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway)
Dillon, John
Dodd, W. H.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Ferens, T. R.
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fullerton, Hugh
Gilhooly, James
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gulland John W.
Halpin, J.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Right Hon. Lewis
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Healy, Timothy Michael
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Horniman, Emslie John
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Meagher, Michael
Montgomery, H. H.
Mooney, J. J.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nichols, George
Nolan, Joseph
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William

O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rainy, A. Holland
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Richards, Thos. (W. Monmouth)
Richardson, A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robinson, S.
Roche, John (Galway, East)
Rose, Charles Day
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Sir C. E. (Manchester)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Chas. Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr, John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E.
Walsh, Stephen
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent)
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York W. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Captain Donelan and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

NOES.

Arkwright, John Stanhope
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hill, Henry Staveley (Staff'sh.)
Hills, J. W.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Montagu, E. S.
Morpeth, Viscount
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. John Gordon and Mr. Lonsdale.

Ordered, That it be an instruction to the Committee on the Bill to insert a clause providing that all future appointments to clerkships of the Great Northern Railway (Ireland) and of the Midland Railway in Ireland shall be made only after and as a result of open competitive examinations, held in accordance with such regulations as the Committee may prescribe.

And, it being after half-past eleven of the clock on Tuesday evening, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at twenty minutes after Twelve o'clock.

[APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

PUBLIC BILLS

DEALT WITH IN VOLUME CLIX

Those marked thus * are Government Bills. The figures in parentheses in the last column refer to the page in this volume. "[H.L.]" following title indicates that the Bill originated in the House of Lords.

(A.) HOUSE OF LORDS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Bills of Exchange [H.L.]	*Lord Avebury*	Bill withdrawn 2nd July (1336)
*Colonial Marriages [H.L.]	*Earl of Elgin*	Read 3^a and passed 19th June (6)
Education of Defective Children (Scotland)	*Lord Balfour of Burleigh*	Committee Report } 25th June (564) Read 3^a and passed 28th June (1084)
*Finance	*Marquess of Ripon*	Read 2^a Read 3^a and passed } 21st June (299) Royal Assent 22nd June (465)
Ground Game [H.L.]	*Lord Burghclere*	Read 2^a 3rd July (1560)
*Indian Railways Act Amendment		Read 2^a 21st June (320) Committee Report } 22nd June (469) Read 3^a and passed 28th June (1084)
*Justices of the Peace (No.2).	*Earl Beauchamp*	Committee 22nd June (469) Report 28th June (1084) Read 3^a and passed 29th June (1239)
Local Government (Scotland) (No. 2)		Bill Withdrawn 2nd July (1436)
*Metropolitan Police Commission	*Earl Beauchamp*	Read 3^a and passed 19th June (7) Royal Assent 22nd June (465)
Municipal Corporations [H.L.]	*Earl of Stamford*	Read 2^a 19th June (6) Committee 22nd June (469) Report 28th June (1084) Read 3^a and passed 29th June (1239)
*Police Superannuation	*Earl Beauchamp*	Royal Assent 22nd June (465)
*Reserve Forces	*Earl of Portsmouth*	Report 21st June (320) Read 3^a and passed 22nd June (485)
*Seamen and Soldiers False Characters	*Earl of Portsmouth*	Royal Assent 22nd June (465)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Bankers (Ireland) Act Repeal	*Mr. Cherry*	Read 1° 19th June (61)
Canals	*Mr. Barran*	Read 1° 26 June (799)
Colonial Marriages [H.L.]	*Mr. Churchill*	Read 1° 22nd June (498)
*Dangerous Performances	*Mr. H. Samuel*	Read 1° 25th June (668)
*Dublin Police	*Mr. Bryce*	Read 1° 19th June (60)
Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland)	*Mr. McCrae*	Read 1° 2nd July (1436)
*Education (England and Wales)	*Mr. Birrell*	Committee 19th June (61) " 20th " (197) " 25th " (668) " 26th " (805) " 27th " (959) " 2nd July (1437) " 3rd " (1642)
Elections (Meetings in Schoolrooms) [H.L.]	*Mr. Paulton*	Read 1° 29th June (1257)
*Finance	*Mr. Asquith*	Royal Assent 22nd June (493)
Infant Life Protection	*Mr. Staveley Hill*	Read 1° 26th June (799)
*Infectious Diseases (Ireland)	*Mr. Bryce*	Read 1° 19th June (60)
Isle of Man (Customs)	*Mr. McKenna*	Read 1° 27th June (959)
Land Tenure	*Mr. Agar Robartes*	Consideration, as amended, 22nd June (498) Do. 29th June (1257)
Local Government (Ireland) Act (1898) Amendment.	*Mr. P. O'Brien*	Read 1° 26th June (799)
Local Government (Scotland) Act (1894) Amendment)	*Mr. J. C. Wason*	Read 1° 25th June (668)
*Lunacy (Ireland)	*Mr. Bryce*	Read 1° 19th June (61)
Meat Marking (Ireland)	*Mr. Field*	Read 1° 27th June (959)
*Metropolitan Police Commission	*Mr. Gladstone*	Royal Assent 22nd June (465)
Musical Copyright	*Mr. T. P. O'Connor*	Committee 26th June (909)
Nurses Registration and Qualification	*Mr. Hay*	Read 1° 2nd July (1436)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS—*continued.*

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Parliamentary Elections	*Mr. J. Robertson*	Read 1° 2nd July (1436)
*Police Superannuation	*Mr. H. Samuel*	Lords Amendments considered 19th June (61) Royal Assent 22nd June (465)
Probation of First Offenders	*Sir H. Vincent*	Read 1° 25th June (668)
*Removal of Offensive Matter	*Mr. J. Burns*	Read 1° 25th June (668)
Rights of Way	*Mr. Paulton*	Bill withdrawn 27th June (1080)
*Seamen and Soldiers False Characters	*Mr. Haldane*	Royal Assent 22nd June (493)
Strangers in Blood Interpretation	*Sir. W. Bull*	Read 1° 20th June (197)
*Street Betting [H.L.]	*Mr. Yoxall*	Read 1° 21st June (388)
Summary Jurisdiction (Children)	*Mr. J. Tennant*	Bill withdrawn 25th June (295)
*Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland)	*Mr. Cherry*	Read 1° 19th June (61)

APPENDIX II.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, SESSION 1906.

List of Rules, Orders, &c., which have been presented during the Session, and are required by Statute to lie for an appointed number of Days upon the Table of the House.

In Continuation of List given in previous Volume.

Title of Paper.	Date from which the Period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the City of Hereford, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the City [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	19 June	40 days
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Urban District Council of Stretford, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for Hairdressers' Shops within the District [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	19 June	40 days
Inebriates' Act, 1898,—Copy of Regulation, dated 15th June, 1906, made by the Secretary for Scotland in pursuance of Section 6 as read with Section 25 of The Inebriates Act, 1898, respecting the transfer of Inebriates from a State Inebriate Reformatory in Scotland to a certified Inebriate Reformatory [61 and 62 Vic., c. 60, s. 21]	19 June	4 weeks
Intermediate Education (Ireland), — Copy of Rules and Programme of Examinations for 1907 [41 and 42 Vic., c. 66, s. 6]	22 June	40 days
Sea Fisheries Regulations Act, 1888,—Copy of Order made by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, under the provisions of the said Act, for the variation of an Order for uniting the Lancashire and Western Sea Fisheries District [51 and 52 Vic., c. 54, s. 1 (4)]	25 June	30 days
Board of Education,—Copy of Draft Order in Council continuing certain provisions contained in the Order in Council of 6th March 1902 [62 and 63 Vic., 33 s. 5]	26 June	4 weeks
Clergy Discipline Act, Copy of additional Rules under The Clergy Discipline Act, 1892, dated 25th June 1906 [55 and 56 Vic., c. 32, s. 9 (2)]	27 June	40 days
Board of Education (Code, 1906),—Copy of Code of Regulations for Public Elementary Schools, with Schedules, by the Board of Education [33 and 34 Vic., c. 75, s. 97]	28 June	One month

INDEX

TO THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[AUTHORISED EDITION].

EIGHTH VOLUME OF SESSION 1906.

JUNE 19—*JULY* 3.

EXPLANATION OF ARRANGEMENT AND ABBREVIATIONS.

Bills: Read First, Second, or Third Time = 1R., 2R., 3R. [*c.*] = Commons. [*l.*] = Lords. *Amendt.* = Amendment. *Os.* = Observations. *Qs.* = Questions. *As.* = Answers. *Com.* = Committee. *Con.* = Consideration. *Rep.* = Report.

Where in the Index * is added with Reading of a Bill, or a Vote in Committee of Supply, it indicates that no Debate took place on that Stage of the Bill, or on that Vote.

Subjects discussed in Committee of Supply are entered under their headings, and also under Members' Names, without reference to the actual Vote before the Committee.

Abraham, Mr. W. [Cork County, N.E.]
Killavallen Schoolhouse, Condition of, and Proposals as to, *June 21*, 382.

Abraham, Mr. W. [Glamorgan, Rhondda]
Welsh Mines, Inspection of—Qualifications of Mr. Atkinson, *June 26*, 772.

Abyssinia
Djibuti Railway.
Extension of, Decision as to.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *July 2*, 1390, 1391.
Goods Rates, Agreement as to.
Qs. Mr. Ashley; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *July 3*, 1619.
Harrar Governorship, Decision as to.
Q. Mr. Ashley; *A.* Sir. E. Grey, *June 19*, 37.

Accrington
Hyndburn Park School, Decision as to.
Q. Sir G. Parker; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *July 2*, 1423, 1424.

Acland, Mr. F. W. [Yorks, Richmond]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.* *July 3*, 1645-1649.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hon. Sir A. [Somersetshire, Wellington]
Postal Rural Districts, Extension of Facilities in, proposed, *June 21*, 418, 419.

Adair Estate
Sale Negotiations for.
Q. Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 594.

Adkins, Mr. W. R. [Lancashire, S.E., Middleton].
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 26*, 826-829; *July 2*, 1507-1510.

Admiralty
First Lord—Rt. Hon. Lord Tweedmouth.
Financial Secretary—Rt. Hon. E. Robertson.
Accountant clerks, Temporary, Conditions of Appointment of.
Q. Mr. J. M. Robertson; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 25*, 621.
Contracts held by Messrs. Richards Wages paid by, etc.
Q. Mr. K. Hardie; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *June 20*, 164.
Flag List—Decision as to Publication of Report of Lord Goschen's Committee, etc.
Qs. Mr. Bellairs; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, *June 27*, 922.
Glassware Contracts, Allocation of.
Q. Mr. S. Hill; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *June 19*, 33.
Increase in Number of Clerks, Reason for.
Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *June 20*, 1121, 1122.
Second Division Clerks, Position of.
Q. Mr. J. M. Robertson; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *June 25*, 617, 618.
Wireless Telegraphy, *see that title.*

Africa, Central

Elephant Marsh Game Preserve—Danger to Chiromo from Lions, etc.
Q, Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *July 2*, 1389, 1390.

Labour Contracts, Enforcing, in British Protectorate.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 27*, 923.

Africa, East

See also names of places.

Portuguese Territory—Railway Rates on Goods for the Transvaal.
Q. Mr. O'Grady; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 20*, 166, 167.

Slavery, Progress made with Abolition of.
Q. Mr. J. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *July 3*, 1611, 1612.

Sleeping Sickness, Precautions against, Removal of Seat of Government from Entebbe, proposed.
Qs. Mr. J. C. Wason; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *June 28*, 1123, 1124.

Timber Concession, Conditions of.
Qs. Mr. J. C. Wason, Mr. Ashley; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *July 3*, 1612, 1613.

Africa, South

See also names of Colonies.

Blue-books and Papers, Expediting Publication of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Brodie; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 26*, 753, 754.

Boers emigrated since the War, Number of, etc.
Q. Sir J. Dickson-Poynder; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 25*, 642.

Import Duty on Second-hand Clothing.
Q. Mr. S. Samuel; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *July 2*, 1410.

Mail Service, *see under* Post Office—Mail Service.

Self-government Proposals

Discussion, Opportunity for.
Qs. Mr. Byles, Sir G. Parker; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 25*, 665.

Work of Commission, Date of presenting Report, etc.
Q. Mr. Byles; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 25*, 643.

Stillwell & Son, Messrs.—Claim against Constabulary Reason for Delay in Payment of.
Q. Mr. R. Pearce; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 19*, 22.

Agents and Canvassers

Trading in Opposition to late Employers, Legislation for Prevention of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Hodge; *A.* Sir L. Walton, *June 27*, 920.

Aghanlish

McGlone, Decision as to Holding of.
Qs. Mr. Ginnell; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 147, 148; *June 25*, 589.
Q. Mr. Dolan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 21*, 380, 381.

Agricultural Co-operation

Teaching of, by Local Authorities.
Q. Mr. Channing; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 25*, 590.

Agricultural Education

Grants to Universities and Institutions for Purposes of, Necessity for increasing.
Os. Lord Barnard, *June 25*, 578–580; Earl Carrington, 580 581; Earl of Onslow, 581.

Agricultural Holdings Consolidation Bill

Proposals as to.
Q. Mr. Beck; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 28*, 1157.

Agriculture and Fisheries, Board of

President—Rt. Hon. Earl Carrington.

Vote, Date of taking, and Opportunity for discussing.
Q. Mr. Beck; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 25*, 664.
Q. Colonel Williams; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 25*, 667.
Q. Mr. Morrell; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 27*, 955.

Agriculture and Technical Instruction Department, Ireland

Plunkett, Sir H., Tributes to.
Os. Mr. Barrie, *June 28*, 1221.

Schemes, Local Contributions to

Date of presenting Return
Q. Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 21*, 375.

Particulars given in Return.
Q. Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 628.

Vote for, June 28, 1161, 1212.

Work of.
Os. Mr. Barrie, *June 28*, 1220, 1221.

Ainsworth, Mr. J. S. [Argyll]

Postal Facilities in Highland Districts, Extension of, *June 21*, 430.

Aland Islands

Russian alleged Occupation of.
Q. Mr. Ashley; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *June 28*, 1132.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *July 2*, 1415.

Alcohol

Industrial Use of, Legislative Proposals as to.
Q. Mr. Mond; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *June 25*, 622.

Alden, Mr. P. [Middlesex, Tottenham]

Canned Foodstuffs, Regulations for Inspection etc., *June 25*, 652.

Congo Free State Administration—Intervention of Powers under Berlin Act, *June 26*, 769.

Factories, etc.—Museum for Appliances for Prevention of Accidents, proposed, *July 3*, 1625.

Montenegro—Turkish Outrages on Frontier, *July 3*, 1618.

Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Bill

c. 2R.* *June 27*, 913.

Aliens Act

Revision of Regulations under, proposed, *Q.* Mr. Fell; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 21*, 365.

Want of Nationality a Ground for refusing Admission, proposed.
Q. Mr. Fell; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 21*, 364, 365.

Ambrose, Dr. R. [Mayo, W.]

Congested Districts Board, Land sold by; Progress made, etc., *June 28*, 1174–1176.

O'Donel Estate, Progress of Sale Negotiations, *June 28*, 1175, 1176.

Phibbs Estate—Disposal of Errieff Grazing Farm, *July 2*, 1397.

Amersham

Water Company, Powers of, as to Private Fire Hydrants.
Q. Mr. Grove; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 19*, 26, 27.

Anarchists

Newspapers published by, in London.
Q. Sir W. Evans Gordon; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 25*, 647.

Madrid Outrage, Comment on—Prosecution of Persons responsible for Publication of.
Qs. Sir W. Evans Gordon; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 25*. 650.

Writing by—Decision as to Prosecution, Case of J. Most, etc.
Q. Sir. W. Evans Gordon; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *July 2*, 1416, 1417.

Anson, Sir W. R. [Oxford University]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 70, 72, 84–86, 102, 113, 115; *June 20*, 244; *June 26*, 872–875, 987; *July 2*, 1464–1466; *July 3*, 1673, 1674, 1706, 1707, 1712–1714.

Government, Amendments, Date of Circulating, *June 20*, 173.

Teacher's Register, Column B, Names in, *June 21*, 369.

Anstruther-Gray, Major [St. Andrews Burghs]

Volunteers—Scotch Regiments attached to other Brigades for Camp Training, Allowances of, *June 26*, 762.

Arklow

Harbour works, Progress made with.
Q. Mr. Long; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1396.

Arkwright, Mr. J. S. [Hereford]

Great Yarmouth Election Petition—Charges against Mr. Justice Grantham, etc.

Motion, Opportunity for discussing, *July 2*, 1434.

Armagh

Police Force, Religion and Promotions of.
Q. Mr. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 154, 155.

Workhouse — Religious Instruction of Catholic Children.
Q. Mr. MacVeagh; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 154; *June 28*, 1118, 1119.

Armitage, Mr. R. [Leeds, Central]

Housing of the Working Classes Act—Loans Repayable over Eighty Years, *July 2*, 1395.

Pupil Teachers' Travelling Expenses, Grant for, proposed, *June 27*, 934.

Army

Secretary of State—Rt. Hon. R. B. Haldane.

Parliamentary Secretary—Earl of Portsmouth.

Financial Secretary—Mr. T. R. Buchanan.

Ammunition, Blank, Regulation as to.
Q. Sir R. Hobart; *As.* Mr. Buchanan, *June 25*, 631, 632.

Bands—Sunday Performances, Regulations as to.
Q. Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 28*, 1121.

Barracks at Tidworth — Scavenging Tenders.
Q. Mr. Morse; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 27*, 921.

Bremner, D., Case of.
Q. Mr. C. Salter; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *July 2*, 1403.

Contracts, *see under* War Office.

Expenditure, Reduction in, Possibility of Effecting.
Qs. Viscount St. Aldwyn, *June 21*, 302, 303; Viscount Goschen, 312; Lord Joicey, 315; Marquess of Ripon, 318.

Good Conduct Medals—Claim of H. Hulme.
Q. Mr. R. Pearce; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 21*, 353.

[*cont.*

Army—*cont.*
Inspector-General of His Majesty's Forces, Duties of.
Q. Mr. Morton; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 21*, 356.
Irish Candidates—Procedure in applying for Admission.
Q. Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *July 2*, 1403, 1404.
Lovat's Scouts, Additional Squadron for, proposed.
Q. Mr. J. Dewar; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 28*, 1109, 1110.
Militia, Volunteers, Yeomanry, *see those titles.*
Ordnance Factories, Wages, Decision as to
Q. Colonel Lockwood; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *July 3,* 1609, 1610.
Payment of Men in the Field, New Scheme for.
Q. Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Buchanan, *June 25*, 632, 633.
Pensions
Commutation, Age for.
Q. Mr. Barker; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *July 2*, 1402, 1403.
Quartermasters, Regulations as to.
Q. Mr. H. Beach; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 22*, 497, 498.
Pressley, Sergeant T., Case of.
Qs. Mr. Sloan; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *June 21*, 354, 355.
Qualifying Examination, Objections to Date fixed for.
Os. Earl of Mayo, *June 29*, 1239, 1240; Earl of Portsmouth, 1240.
Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, Reduction in, proposed.
Q. Mr. Morton; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *July 2*, 1405.
Sparkbrook Small Arms Factory—Conditions of Transfer to Private Company.
Q. Mr. C. Duncan; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 25*, 612, 613.
War Office, *see that title.*
Woolwich Arsenal Discharges, Decision as to.
Q. Mr. Crooks; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 27*, 922, 923.
Worcester Regiment, Fourth Battalion—Date of leaving Egypt.
Q. Mr. Ashley; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 27*, 923.
Works Loan System, Proposals as to Abolition of.
Os. Viscount St. Aldwyn, *June 21*, 303.

Ascot
Police Force, Strength of and Payment for.
Qs. Dr. Cooper, Mr. Morton, Mr. Thorne; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 28*, 1138, 1139.

Ashbourne, Lord
Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill, *Com., June 22*, 473, 474.

Ashley, Mr. W. W. [Lancashire, N., Blackpool]
Abyssinia
Harrar, Decision as to Governorship of, *June 19*, 37.
Railway Goods Rates, Agreement as to, *July 3*, 1619.
Africa, East—Terms of Timber Concession, *July 3*, 1613.
Aland Islands, alleged Russian Occupation of, *June 28*, 1132.
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., June 19*, 67; *June 20*, 217; *June 27*, 962,; *July 2*, 1459–1461; *July 3*, 1681.
Clause 8, Proposals as to; *July 2*, 1426.
Education, Higher, Co-ordination of Powers as to, proposed, *June 19*, 40.
Egypt—Progress made with delimitation of Turco-Egyptian Frontier, *July 3*, 1619.
Worcester Regiment, Fourth Battalion, Date of leaving Egypt, *June 27*, 923.

Ashton, Mr. T. G. [Beds., Luton]
Education (England and Wales Bill), *Com., July 2*, 1505, 1506.

Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. H.—*Chancellor of the Exchequer* [Fife, E.]
Alcohol for Industrial purposes, Legislative Proposals as to, *June 25*, 622.
Brandy—Precautions against Fraudulent Imports, *July 3*, 1622, 1623.
Death Duties, Departmental Committee, Date of Appointing, *July 2*, 1378.
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., June 27*, 982, 983.
Estate Duties, System of Collecting, Work of Principal Probate Registry etc., *June 27*, 929.
Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill, *Con., June 19*, 142, 144.
Income Tax—Assessment of Earl's Court Exhibitors, *June 28*, 1136.
Taxation
Assessment and Collection, Alteration in System of, proposed, *June 21*, 362, 363.
Collection, Multiplication of Offices, Confusion from, alleged, *July 3*, 1622.
Control of Collectors, etc., by Board of Inland Revenue, Acts Authorising *July 3*, 1621.
University Colleges Commission, Terms of Reference to, *June 22*, 496.
Whiskey, Definition of, proposed, *June 28*, 1136.

Assam

Bengal, Eastern, *see under* India.

Reprieved Prisoner, Alleged Execution of.
Qs. Mr. Bright, Sir H. Cotton; *As.* Mr. Morley, *July 3,* 1616, 1617.

Athenry

Labourers' Cottages Scheme—Investigation of Representations as to Mistakes, proposed.
Q. Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2,* 1388.

Atherley-Jones, Mr. L. [Durham, N.W.]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., June 26,* 819–822.

Atkins Estate

Reinstatement of J. Murphy.
Q. Mr. E. Barry; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20,* 186.

Attercliffe Parliamentary Election

See under Sheffield.

Attorney-General

Sir J. Lawson Walton.

Attorney-General for Ireland

Rt. Hon. R. R. Cherry.

Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H. [Sussex, Lewes]

Land Tenure Bill, *Con., June 22,* 519; *June 29,* 1274, 1275.

Australasia

[*For* particular Colonies, *etc., see their names.*]

Commonwealth, Confidential Nature of Despatches to.
Qs. Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *June 19,* 34.

Navigation Bill of Commonwealth—Report Presented, *June 22,* 468, 496.

Austria-Hungary

Trade Report Presented, *June 22,* 468.

Avebury, Lord

Bills of Exchange Bill, Withdrawal of, *July 2,* 1335.

Bacon

American, Reason for Increase in Importation into Ireland, Regulations as to Inspection, etc.
Q. Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28,* 1153.

Baghdad Railway

Progress made with Construction of, Turkish Guarantee, British Policy, etc.
Qs. Lord Newton, *July 2,* 1342, 1343; Lord FitzMaurice, 1350, 1351; Marquess of Lansdowne, 1358, 1359.

Bahr-el-Ghazal

See under Soudan.

Baily Hill

Water Supply, Proposals as to.
Q. Mr. C. E. Schwann; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 27,* 918, 919.

Baker, Mr. J. A. [Finsbury, E.]

London County Council (Money) Bill, *Con., June 21,* 447.

Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill

l. 2R.* *June 19,* 3.

Balcarres, Lord [Lancashire, N. Chorley]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., June 19,* 90; *June 20,* 212, 259, 260; *June 27,* 1016, 1022; *July 2,* 1502–1503; *July 3,* 1708.

Clause 4, Provisions of, *June 28,* 1117; *July 3,* 1630.

Clause 6, Amendments to, *June 28,* 1147.

Clause 8, Proposals as to *July 2,* 1426.

Voluntary Schools contracted out, *June 27,* 934.

Glamorgan Education Authority, alleged attempt of, to use labour certificate as school efficiency test, *June 20,* 173.

Wireless Telegraphy Bill, proposals as to, *June 28,* 1145.

Balfour, Capt. C. B. [Middlesex, Hornsey]

Kew Gardens—proposals for utilising Cambridge Cottage, *July 2,* 1391.

Land Tenure Bill, *Con., June 22,* 502; *June 29,* 1296.

Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. [London]

Business of the House, Course of, *June 21,* 387; *June 25,* 666, 667.

Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill, *Con., June 19,* 142.

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., June 19,* 73, 77, 78, 90, 92, 110, 111, 112, 114, 128–131; *June 20,* 200–202, 210, 216, 218, 231, 254–257, 274–277, 282, 284; *June 25,* 729–737; *June 26,* 840–844, 849, 882–886; *June 27,* 967–969, 975, 981, 982, 989, 1033–1036; *July 2,* 1479–1484, 1515; *July 3,* 1655–1659, 1701, 1716–1720.

Amendments, Government, Date of circulating, *June 20,* 173.

Clause 3, interpretation of, *July 3,* 1640, 1641.

Provisions of and proposals for discussing, *June 27,* 957, 958.

Ballinaguile Croagh

Reinstatement of W. Ryan and O. Sheehy,
Q. Mr. O'Shaughnessy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20,* 190.

Banbury, Sir F. G. [London, City of]
- Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill, *Con., June 19*, 141.
- Land Tenure Bill, *Con., June 22*, 503, 559, 560; *June 29*, 1257, 1258, 1316.
- London County Council (Money) Bill, *Con., June 21*, 442–444.
- Musical Copyright Bill, *Com., June 26*, 910.
- Poplar Poor Law Inquiry, Circulation of notes of, proposed, *June 25*, 588.
- Post Office
  - Electric Lighting plant, Expenditure on, *June 21*, 455.
  - Medical Officers, Salaries and payments to, *June 21*, 425.
  - Postal Orders, Reduction of poundage on, *June 21*, 423.
  - Rural districts, Extension of facilities in, Question of motor service, etc., *June 21*, 422, 423.
  - Telegrams, loss on, *June 21*, 424, 245.
  - Wages—Political pressure exerted by employees, *June 21*, 424.
- Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill —Instruction to Committee, *June 26*, 905.

Bandon Estate
- Reinstatement of C. O'Donoghue.
  - *Q.* Mr. E. Barry; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 187.

Bankers (Ireland) Act Repeal Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *June 19*, 61.

Bankruptcy Law
- Committee of Inquiry, investigation of Irish law by, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. C. Craig; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 26*, 796.

Barker, Mr. J. [Penryn and Falmouth]
- Army pensions, Age for commuting, *July 2*, 1402.

Barnard, Lord
- Agricultural Institutions, necessity for increasing Government Grants to, *June 25*, 578–580.
- Poor Rate, Sanctioning of, by justices—Reasons for charging fees for, *June 21*, 337, 338.

Barran, Mr. R. H. [Leeds, N.]
- Company Returns, penalty for not filing, etc., *July 2*, 1418, 1419.
- Somerset House search room—Provision of additional registers, etc., proposed, *June 28*, 1142.

Barrie, Mr. H. T. [Londonderry, N.]
- Agriculture Department, Work of—Tribute to Sir H. Plunkett, etc., *June 28*, 1220, 1221.

Barrie, Mr. H. T.—*cont.*
- Congested Districts Board, work of, *June 28*, 1220.
- Cumbrae, Island of—Proposals for Settling Pier Dues Dispute, *June 27*, 932.
- Housing of the Working Classes in Ireland Revision of Loan System proposed, *June 28*, 1157.
- Poor Law Commission Report, Reason for Delay in presenting, *June 19*, 51, 52.

Barry, Mr. E. [Cork County, S.]
- Atkins Estate—Reinstatement of J. Murphy, *June 20*, 186.
- Bandon Estate—Reinstatement of C. O'Donoghue, *June 20*, 187.
- Congested Districts Board—Work of—Appointment of Representative for South of Ireland, proposed, *June 28*, 1233, 1234.
- Cork County Railway Extension, Proposals as to, *June 26*, 785.
- Education—Position of National School Teachers entering in 1900, *June 19*, 44.
- Muckross Barytes Mines, Inspection of, proposed, *June 26*, 786.
- Skibbereen Post Office—Refusal to pay Postal Order signed in Irish, *June 19*, 56.
- War Office Meat Contracts—Stipulation as to Home-bred Meat, etc., *June 20*, 165.

Barry Railway Bill
- *c. Rep.** *June 21*, 340.
- 3R.* *June 25*, 583; *June 28*, 1092.

Beach, Mr. M. Hicks [Gloucester, Tewkesbury]
- Army—Pensions of Quartermasters, *June 22*, 497.
- Education—Religious Instruction, Number of children withdrawn from, *June 28*, 1148.
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., July 3*, 1642–1645.
  - Commission, Proposals as to, *June 28*, 1158, 1159; *July 4*, 1434.
- Land Tenure Bill, *Con., June 22*, 504; *June 29*, 1293, 1294.
- Post Office
  - Increase in Number of Employees, *June 21*, 457.
  - Sunday Deliveries, Anomalies of, *June 21*, 458.
- Rifle Clubs, Government grant to, proposed, *June 28*, 1110.

Beauchamp, Earl
- Indian Railways Act Amendment Bill, 2R., *June 21*, 320.
- Metropolitan Police Commission Police, 3R., *June 19*, 12.

Beauchamp, Mr. H. W. [Suffolk, Lowestoft]
- German Naval Shipbuilding Programme, *June 20*, 163.

Beck, Mr. A. C. [Cambridge, Wisbech]
- Agricultural Holdings Consolidation Bill, Proposals as to, *June 28*, 1157.
- Agriculture Board Vote, Date of Taking, *June 25*, 664.
- Census of Production Bill—Inclusion of Agricultural Produce proposed, *June 28*, 1140.

Beckett, Mr. G. [York, N.R., Whitby]
- Coast Erosion Commission, Proposals as to, *June 28*, 1158.

Belfast
- Constabulary
  - Inquiry, Information as to. *Q.* Mr. C. Craig; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1156.
  - Sergeants, Period of Service of. *Q.* Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 152.
- Harbour Board, Conditions of and Control over. *Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 760, 761.
- Prison
  - Confidential Reports sent from. *Q.* Mr. McKillop; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 610.
  - Governor, Service etc., of. *Q.* Mr. McKillop; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 609, 610.
- Troops in, Meat supplied to. *Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 25*, 612.

Bellairs, Mr. C. [Lynn Regis]
- Admiralty
  - Clerks, Reason for Increase in, *June 28*, 1121.
  - Flag List—Decision as to Publication of Report of Lord Goschen's Committee, *June 27*, 922.
- Navy
  - Battleships Return—Alleged Inclusion of Defective Vessels, *July 2*, 1392.
  - Eyesight Tests, Regulations as to, *June 19*, 32; *June 25*, 589, 630.
  - "Montagu," Proposals as to salving, etc., *July 2*, 1402.
  - Promotions under New System, *June 26*, 763.
  - "Ramillies" and "Prince of Wales," Progress of Repairs to, *June 25*, 617.
  - "Renown" Shipment of Armament to, *June 25*, 617.
  - Shipbuilding Programme—Effect of Restrictions on Overtime in Dockyards, *July 2*, 1400.
- Wireless Telegraphy—Intercommunication between Ships with Marconi and other Systems, Agreement as to, *June 28*, 1120, 1143.

Belloc, Mr. H. V. P. R. [Salford, S.]
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 25*, 697, 698.
- Egypt—Attack on British Officers, Evidence given at Trial, *July 3*, 1619.
- South African War—Arms issued to, and returned by Natives, *June 25*, 633.

Belmullet
- Railway line to Mullaranny, Decision as to. *Q.* Mr. Long; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1396.

Benmore Estate
- Sale Negotiations, Termination of. *Os.* Mr. Duffy, *June 28*, 1183.

Benn, Mr. J. W. [Devonport]
- Navy
  - Education of—Boatswains and Carpenters, Utilisation of, under New Scheme, *June 21*, 345.
  - Ordnance Department, Pension System in, *June 19*, 25.
  - Wages and Conditions of Service, Inquiry into, proposed, *June 20*, 156.

Bermuda
- Report, Annual, Presented, *June 20*, 146; *June 21*, 298.

Bertram, Mr. J. [Hertfordshire, Hitchin]
- Land Tenure Bill, *Com.*, *June 29*, 1292.

Bevan Estate
- Reinstatement of J. Butler and J. Mulcahy. *Q.* Mr. Lundon; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 188, 189.

Bills of Exchange Bill
- Order for Second Reading read, and Bill withdrawn, *July 2*, 1335, 1336.

Billson, Mr. A. [Staffordshire, N.W.]
- Shrewsbury Municipal Charities Scheme, Reason for Delay as to, *June 28*, 1149.

Birrell, Rt. Hon. A.—*President, Board of Education* [Bristol, N.]
- Accrington—Decision as to Hyndburn Park School, *July 2*, 1424.
- Agricultural Co-operation, Teaching of, by Local Authorities, *June 25*, 590.
- Annual Grant, Period for paying, *June 20*, 162.
- Catholic Elementary Schools in certain Cities, Grants and Rate Aid to, *July 2*, 1394.
- Diocesan Inspectors, Position of, *June 25*, 620.

[*cont.*

Birrell, Rt. Hon. A.—*cont.*
- Education England (and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 62, 69, 73, 74, 77, 79–80, 81, 88, 91, 92, 101, 102, 103, 104, 109, 111, 113, 114, 131–133; *June 20*, 199, 200, 209, 219, 252–254, 268, 273, 276, 277–282, 284; *June 25*, 672–677; *June 26*, 805–811, 849, 850, 879–882; *June 27*, 961, 965–967, 970–972, 974–976, 985, 992, 993, 1000–1002, 1013, 1014, 1016, 1032, 1033, 1047, 1053 1061, 1073, ; *July 2*, 1441–1446; *July 3*, 1652–1655, 1672, 1682, 1684, 1691, 1692, 1704–1706, 1720–1722.
  - Amendments, Government, Date of circulating, *June 20*, 173.
  - Clause 3, Interpretation of, *July 3*, 1639–1641.
  - Clause 4, Provisions of, *June 28*, 1117; *July 2*, 1424, 1425, 1428; *July 3*, 1629, 1630.
  - Clause 5, Effect of Amendment to, *June 27*, 957.
  - Clause 6, Amendments, Date of publishing, *June 27*, 919.
  - Clause 8, Proposals as to, *July 2*, 1426.
  - Clause 36, Dropping of, proposed, *June 26*, 757.
  - Financial Proposals—Date of publishing Rules, *June 27*, 919.
  - "Other Payment," Definition of, in Amendment as to Rent, *July 3*, 1629.
  - Rates, Exemption of Council Schools from, proposed, *June 19*, 40.
  - Religious Instruction, Denominational, Provision as to, *June 25*, 657.
  - Reprint of, proposed, *July 3*, 1639.
  - Voluntary Schools—Maintenance, etc., Apportionment of Cost of, *June 25*, 656; *June 27*, 933, 934.
- Education Board Library, Preparation of Catalogue to, proposed, *June 29*, 1256.
- Elections of School Boards—Percentages of Votes in Urban Districts, *July 3*, 1605.
- Glamorgan—Alleged Attempt of Local Authority to use Labour Certificate as School Efficiency Test, *June 20*, 173.
- Handsworth — Administration of St. Joseph's School, *June 19*, 41.
- Higher Education, Co-ordination of Powers as to, proposed, *June 19*, 40.
- Llanelltyd Schoolmistress, Delay in Payment of Salary to, *June 25*, 655.
- Oxfordshire Pupil Teachers' Centre, Reason for closing, *June 26*, 755.
- Pupil Teachers' Travelling Expenses, Grant for, proposed, *June 27*, 935.

Birrell, Rt. Hon. A.—*cont.*
- Sunday Observance, Explanation of, *July 2*, 1425.
- Urban Areas, Provided Schools in, *July 3*, 1605.
- Welsh Intermediate Schools, Regulations For inspection of, *June 25*, 655.

Births
- Certificates, Charges for Copies of.
  - *Q.* Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27*, 941.

Bisset, Mr. C., Case of
- Investigation of, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. Thomasson; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 28*, 1112, 1113.

Blackbeck
- Explosion at—Report as to, Presented, *June 25*, 563, 585.

Black Rod
- Office of Gentleman Usher of—Report from Select Committee Presented, *June 26*, 747.

Blake, Mr. E. [Longford, S.]
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 25*, 679–685, 983.
- Parliamentary Procedure Select Committee, Date of Next Meeting of, *June 20*, 158.
- Transvaal Chinese Labour—Repatriation Notification, *June 21*, 359.

Bodmin Parliamentary Election
- *See under* Cornwall.

Boland, Mr. J. P. [Kerry, S.]
- Congested Districts Board—Direct Representative from Kerry, and Cork, Appointment of, proposed, *June 28*, 1213.
- Cooscroum Landing Place, Decision as to, *June 26*, 781.
- Copper Mining Industry in Ireland, development of, proposed, *June 28*, 1212.
- Education, Bi-lingual
  - Inspection of Schools, *June 26*, 792, 793.
  - Programme, Proposals as to, *June 28*, 1156.
- Fish, Irish cured, Brand for, Proposed, *June 19*, 50; *June 27*, 949; *June 28*, 1214.
- Glenbeigh Estate, Progress of Sale Negotiations, *June 28*, 1214.
- Handsworth — Administration of St. Joseph's school, *June 19*, 41.
- Irish Language—Teaching in Schools
  - Number of Pupils, Fees paid, etc., *June 26*, 793.
  - Proposals as to, *June 19*, 53, 54.

[*cont.*

Boland, Mr. J. P.—*cont.*
- Lace Industry in Ireland, Development of, *June 28*, 1213.
- New York Mutual Reserve Company—Reason for withdrawal of English Deposit, etc., *July 3*, 1326, 1327.
- Reenard Pier Improvements, Decision as to, *June 19*, 48.
- Trade—Separate statistics for Ireland, Proposals as to, *June 21*, 384.
- Trade Mark for Ireland, establishment of, proposed, *June 28*, 1213, 1214.

Bombay, Baroda, and Central India Railway Bill
- *c. Rep.* June 22*, 494.
- *Con.* June 27*, 913.
- 3R* *July 2*, 1370.

Bonmahon
- Pier, Erection of, proposed. *Q.* Mr. Power; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 30.

Boroughs
- Rateable Value of Certain Boroughs—Return Presented, *June 26*, 751.

Bottomley, Mr. H. W. [Hackney, S.]
- Defaulting Solicitors—Allusion to Case as Rex *v.*—— in Return, *June 28*, 1139.
- Servia—Conditions of British Resumption of Diplomatic Relations, *June 28*, 1133.
- Transvaal Chinese Labour—Translation of Repatriation Notification, *June* 20, 167; *June 21*, 359; *June 28*, 1124, 1125.
- Watt, H., Case of—Provision of Funds for Emigration of Shuttle, *July 2*, 1378.

Bowles, Mr. G. S. [Lambeth, Norwood]
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com. July 3*, 1714, 1715.

Boyle, Sir E. [Taunton]
- Education—Urban Areas, Provided Schools in, Percentage of Votes at Elections, etc., *July 3*, 1605.

Brace, Mr. W. [Glamorgan, S.]
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., July 2*, 1474.
- Land Tenure Bill, *Com., June 29*, 1272.
- Welsh Mines, Inspection of—Opportunity for discussing Question, *June 26*, 772, 773.

Branch, Mr. J. [Middlesex, Enfield]
- Kew Gardens—Plants given, received and exchanged during last five years, *June 27*, 935.

Brandy
- Precautions against Fraudulent Imports. *Q.* Mr. Healy; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *July 3*, 1622, 1623.

Breweries
- Rateable Value of Bass's, Allsopp's, and Guiness's, Income tax charged, etc. *Q.* Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 29*, 1253.

Bridgeman, Mr. W. C. [Shropshire, Oswestry]
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., June 26*, 867–870; *July 3*, 1689–1691.
  - Provisions of *July 3*, 1629.
  - Voluntary Schools—Apportionment of Cost of Maintenance, etc., *June 25*, 656.
- Llanelltyd Schoolmistress, Delay in payment of Salary to, *June 25*, 655.
- London County Council (Money) Bill. *Con., June 21*, 445–447.
- Post Office—Rural Postmen, burdens carried by, *June 21*, 451.
- Telegrams—Fees charged for delivery after Business Hours, *June 21*, 451.
- Welsh Intermediate Schools, Regulations for Inspection of, *June 25*, 655.

Bridgwater Canals Bill
- *c. Rep.* June 22*, 494.

Brigg, Mr. J. [Yorks., W. R. Keighley]
- Industrial Development of Ireland, Necessity for effecting, *June 28*, 1216, 1217.

Bright, Mr. J. A. [Oldham]
- Assam—Alleged Execution of Reprieved Prisoner, *July 3*, 1616.

Bristol
- Telegraph Delays, Inquiry into. *Q.* Mr. W. T. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 28*, 1114, 1115.

Bristol Corporation Bill
- *l.* 2R.* *June 19*, 3.

Brixham Gas (Electric Lighting) Bill
- *l. Rep.* June 25*, 561.
- 3R.* *June 28*, 1032.

Brixton Prison
- Addition—Wages of Carpenters. *Q.* Mr. Seaverns; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 26*, 769, 770.

Brodie, Mr. H. C. [Surrey, Reigate]
- Africa, South, Expediting Publication of Papers, on proposed, *June 26*, 753.
- Lagos—Restrictions upon Oil-boring, proposed, *July 3*, 1597.
- Local Authorities (Qualification of Women) Bill Proposals, as to, *July 3*, 1611.

Brunner, Sir J. T. [Cheshire, Northwich]
- Newhaven and Dieppe, Passenger Rates charged between, *June 29*, 1255.

Bryce, Rt. Hon. J.—*Chief Secretary for Ireland* [Aberdeen, S.]

- Adair Estate, Sale Negotiations for, *June 25*, 594.
- Aghanlish—Decision as to McGlone's Holding, *June 20*, 148 ; *June 21*, 381 ; *June 25*, 589.
- Agriculture Department Schemes — Return as to Local Contributions
  - Date of Presenting, *June 21*, 375.
  - Particulars given in, *June 25*, 628.
- Armagh
  - Police Force, Religion and Promotions of, *June 20*, 155.
  - Workhouse—Religious instruction of Catholic Children, *June 20*, 154, *June 28*, 1119.
- Athenry, Labourers' Cottages Scheme—Investigation into alleged Mistakes proposed, *July 2*, 1388.
- Atkins Estate — Reinstatement of J. Murphy, *June 20*, 186.
- Bacon, American, Inspection on Importation into Ireland, etc., *June 28*, 1153.
- Ballinaguile Croagh—Reinstatement of W. Ryan & O. Sheehy, *June 20*, 190.
- Bandon Estate — Reinstatement of C. O'Donoghue, *June 20*, 187.
- Barrow Holdings, Prevention of Sand drifting on, *June 21*, 374.
- Belfast
  - Constabulary
    - Inquiry, Information as to, *June 28*, 1156.
    - Sergeants, Period of Service of, *June 20*, 152.
  - Harbour Board, Constitution of and Control over, *June 26*, 761.
  - Prison
    - Confidential Reports sent from, *June 25*, 610.
    - Governor, Service of, *June 25*, 610.
- Belmullet—Decision as to Railway Line to Belmullet, *July 2*, 1396.
- Bevan Estate — Reinstatement of J. Butler and J. Mulcahy, *June 20*, 189.
- Birth Certificates, Charge for Copy of, *June 27*, 941.
- Bonmahon, Erection of Pier at, proposed, *June 19*, 30.
- Caldbeck Estate Untenanted land, Disposal of, *June 19*, 44.
- Canned Food Stuffs
  - Public Institutions, Supplies for, *June 21*, 376, 377.
  - Tuberculous Meat, Precautions against use of, *July 3*, 1634.

Bryce, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*

- Cappaloughlin Estate Sale Terms, Turbary Right, etc., *June 20*, 177 ; *July 3*, 1609.
- Carrickmore
  - Orange Procession, Prohibition of proposed, *June 29*, 1257.
  - Revision Court for, proposed, *June 25*, 602.
- Carysfort Estate, Terms of purchase of, *June 25*, 596.
- Castlebar—Case of J. Ward, *June 25*, 601.
- Castledoherty — Reinstatement Claim of P. Keeny, *June 27*, 942.
- Castle Iney—Turbary rights of Purchasing Tenants, *June 25*, 607.
- Cavan and Leitrim Railway Extensions, Decision as to, *July 2*, 1397.
- Cecilstown—Fair Rent Appeal Case of Mr. J. O'Flynn, *June 19*, 43.
- Clanricarde Estate
  - Evicted Tenants — Reinstatements effected, *June 27*, 951.
  - Situation on, Protection of Tenants, etc., *June 27*, 946–949.
- Clare Evicted Tenants, Number of, Progress made with Reinstatements, etc., *June 25*, 601 ; *June 26*, 784, 785.
- Cleaver Estate Grazing Farm, Disposal of, *June 27*, 940.
- Clements Estate — Disposal of Skreeny Farm, *June 25*, 593.
- Cloontabrit Bogs, Disposal of, *June 19*, 50.
- Colthurst Estate—Reinstatement of P. Mullane and J. Murphy, *June 25*, 625 ; *June 26*, 760.
- Congested Districts Board
  - Land Clerks Employed by, *June 20*, 185.
  - Land Purchased and Sold, Price paid, etc., (1901–1906), *June 26*, 754, 784, *June 28*, 1203.
  - Temporary Clerks, Examination System for, *June 26*, 795.
  - Work of, *June 28*, 1200–1205, 1206.
- Constabulary
  - Farrell, Head Constable, Charges against—Evidence of Shankey and Bradley, *June 25*, 627.
  - Fund, Amount to credit of, *June 27*, 942 ; *July 3*, 1635.
  - Long, Sergeant, Reason for Transfer of, *June 20*, 152.
  - Masterson and Cryan, Case of—Progress made with Settlement, *June 26*, 787.
  - Moriarty, Mr. H., Service of, Reason for Transfer, etc., *June 28*, 1102.
- Consumption, Measures taken to check, *June 25*, 593 ; *June 26*, 761, 794 ; *June 28*, 1105.

Bryce, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
- Cork County Railway Extensions, proposals as to, *June 26*, 785,
- Corlea School, Reason for Withdrawal of Grant from, *July 2*, 1385.
- Cornamona School Teacher, Name of, *June 21*, 383.
- Crenagh Glebe—Reinstatement Application of J. Reilly, *June 19*, 53.
- Crookenden and Casey Estate—Case of J. Nixon, *June 28*, 1154.
- Cules School, Decision as to rebuilding, *June 28*, 1117.
- Cusack Estate Sale Proposals, *July 2*, 1389.
- De Freyne Estate
  - Chasefield District, Necessity for Road in, *June 21*, 378.
  - Sheepwalk, Construction of Road to, *July 2*, 1384.
- Deaths—Annual Lists for Electoral Registration purposes, Orders as to, *June 21*, 351.
- Dopping Estate—Reinstatement Claims of J. Smythe and P. Victory, *June 28*, 1107.
- Drainage
  - Commission Report, Date of Presenting, *July 3*, 1636.
  - Inland, Necessity for System of, *June 19*, 32.
- Drumtullagh School Teacher's Residence, Conditions of Loan for, *June 21*, 377.
- Dublin—Disturbance at Auction of Coal owned by Mr. P. O'Carroll, *June 25*, 596.
- Dungarvan—Construction of Causeway to Cunnigar, proposed, *June 19*, 31.
- Dunmanway Labourers' Cottages Scheme—Case of Mr. Shea, *June 20*, 188.
- Dunmore East, Fisheries, Effect of Steam Trawling on, *June 26*, 792.
- Dunsandle Estate—Case of Mr. J. Duffy, *June 28*, 1120.
- Education
  - Bi-lingual
    - Programme, Proposals as to, *June 28*, 1156.
    - Schools, Inspection of, *June 26*, 792, 793.
  - Consultative Committee Report, Tabling, proposed, *June 20*, 150; *June 28*, 1102.
  - Intermediate, Proposals as to
    - Correspondence, Tabling, proposed, *June 28*, 1103.
    - Delay in Decision as to, alleged, *June 25*, 606.
    - Minutes, Publication of, proposed, *July 2*, 1544, 1545.

Bryce, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
- Education—*cont.*
  - Intermediate, Proposals as to—*cont.*
    - Parliamentary control over Board, Alleged Refusal to carry out Resolution, etc., *June 20*, 148, 179–182; *June 26*, 789, 790, *June 27*, 939; *July 2*, 1543–1545.
    - Rules
      - Date of Presenting, *June 25*, 602.
      - Withdrawal of, and Substitution of Amended Rules, proposed, *July 2*, 1545–1547, 1551.
  - King's Scholars, Books recommended to, in Examination Programme, *July 2*, 1387.
  - National School Teachers
    - Capitation Grants, Payment of, *June 20*, 184.
    - Dismissals, etc. (1896–1906), *June 29*, 1254.
    - Irish Teachers leaving for Great Britain since 1900, *June 25*, 626.
    - Position of Teachers entering in 1900, *June 19*, 45.
    - Salaries, Period for paying, *June 28*, 1106.
  - Protestant National Teachers Union, Reason for refusing to receive Deputation from *July 2*, 1385.
  - School Building Grants, Decision as to, *June 21*, 383; *June 28*, 1102.
  - Six Standard System, Provision for Teaching in Small Schools, *July 3*, 1605.
  - Starkie, Dr., Services of, *June 28*, 1099.
- Emigration, Cause of Increase in, *June 20*, 192.
- Erne, Lough—Enforcement of Fishery Laws, *June 19*, 27.
- Faulkner Estate Rents, Alleged Pressure for Payment of, *June 20*, 153.
- Featherston-Whitney Estate, Date of Inspecting, *June 27*, 938.
- Ffrench, Miss K., Estate of—Proposals for Sale, *June 27*, 945.
- Finlay Estate—Case of H. Heavy, *June 26*, 762.
- Fisheries
  - Brand for Cured Fish, proposed, *June 19*, 51; *June 27*, 950; *July 3*, 1606.
  - Development of, by Congested Districts Board, *June 28*, 1201, 1202.
- Gethin Estate—Case of M. M'Loughlin, *June 27*, 949.

[*cont.*

Bryce, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*

- Glasnevin Model Farm, Public Right of Access to, *July 3*, 1634.
- Glin, Knight of, Reinstatements on Estate of, *June 20*, 191.
- Government Departments, Promotion System in, *June 19*, 28.
- Granard Estate Bog, Disposal of, *July 2*, 1389.
- Grant Estate—Reinstatement Claim of, J. Riordan, *June 20*, 150.
- Great Seal, Design of, *June 27*, 941.
- Gun Licences
  - Casey, Mr. D., Reason for refusing to, *June 20*, 151.
  - Long, P. J., Refusal of Application of, *June 19*, 53.
- Harbour Works at Arklow, Wicklow and Portavogie, Progress made with, *July 2*, 1396.
- Hillas Estate—Case of P. Foley, *July 2*, 1397.
- Historical Manuscripts — Discussion of Question of Publication, proposed, *June 25*, 593.
- Housing of the Working Classes
  - Interest charged on loans for, *June 21*, 375; *June 25*, 628.
  - Towns, Proposals, as to, *June 19*, 46, 47.
- Irish Language, Teaching in Schools, Proposals as to, *June 19*, 53; *June 25*, 600; *June 26*, 758.
  - Gaelic League, Objections of, *June 19*, 54.
  - Number of Pupils, Fees paid, etc., *June 26*, 793.
- Johnsgrove—Reinstatement of L. McEvoy, *June 19*, 31.
- Jurors and Voters' List, System of preparing, *June 25*, 603.
- Kenmare Estate—Reinstatement of D. Shea, *June 19*, 49.
- Kerry Evicted Tenants, Inquiry into cases of, *July 2*, 1386.
- Kilcloney Farm, Proposals as to, *June 26*, 791.
- Kilkenny District Lunatic Asylum—Number of Patients, cost, etc., *June 25*, 599.
- Killaloe Petty Sessions Clerk—Appointment of Mr. McKeogh, *June 25*, 626.
- Killarney Fair Rent Appeals—Reason for Exclusion of Cases from List, *June 28*, 1107.
- Killavallen Schoolhouse, Condition of and Proposals as to, *June 21*, 382.
- Kinvarra Harbour Improvement, Decision as to, *June 25*, 608; *June 28*, 1103.
- Labourers Act—Returns, Date of Circulating, *June 28*, 1156.

Bryce, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*

- Labourers Bill Loans, expediting Date of Issuing at Reduced Interest, proposed. *June 21*, 384; *June 26*, 787.
- Labourers' Cottages
  - Loans, Rate of Interest on, *June 20*, 192, 193; *June 21*, 381.
  - Schemes for forty-eight Cottages, Decision as to, *July 2*, 1383.
- Lace Industry, Development of by the Congested Districts Board, *June 28*, 1202.
- Land, Untenanted—Date of Presenting Return, etc., *June 21*, 376.
- Land Commission
  - Commissioners, Temporary Assistant.
    - Appointment System, *June 26*, 758, 759.
    - Precedent for dispensing with Services of, *June 26*, 757.
    - Re-appointments made, *June 26*, 758.
  - Fair Rent Appeals pending, etc., *June 26*, 795.
  - Judicial Commissioner, proposals as to, *June 28*, 1152.
  - Land Clerks employed by, *June 20*, 187.
  - Report of Commissioners, Date of issuing, *June 25*, 607.
  - Thompson, Mr. Qualifications of, Decision in Case of, J. Casey, etc., *June 27*, 938.
  - Wilkinson, Mr., Qualifications of, *June 20*, 185; *June 27*, 944.
- Land Purchase
  - Administration of Acts, etc., Inquiry proposed, *June 28*, 1105, 1208–1210.
  - Congested Estates purchased by Commissioners (1903-1906), *June 26*, 784.
  - Estates Commissioners' Report, Date of issuing, *June 25*, 607.
  - Evasion of Acts by Improper Sale, alleged, *June 21*, 373; *June 28*, 1108.
  - Fees, Percentage Scale of, *June 28*, 1118.
  - Inspectors—Date of Presenting Return, *June 27*, 940.
  - Tenants' Improvements, Price paid for —Inquiry proposed, *June 20*, 183, 184; *June 27*, 939.
- Leitrim Evicted Tenants—Cases dealt with, *June 28*, 1154.
- Limerick Evicted Tenants, Applications from, *June 20*, 191.
- Lloyd Estate, Sale Negotiations for, *June 26*, 788.

[*cont.*

Bryce, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
- Local Government Board
  - Legal Proceedings, Representation at, *June 27*, 945.
  - Monteith, Mr., Qualifications, etc., of, *June 27*, 943.
- Londonderry
  - Election—Assault case, McCullough *v.* Foster, *June 25*, 609.
  - Workhouse—Interference by Lady Guardian, Alleged, *June 21*, 352.
- Longfield Estate—Reinstatement of D. Lehane, *June 20*, 177.
- Lord Chancellor, Reduction in Salary of, proposed, *June 20*, 192.
- Loughrea
  - Disturbances at Eviction of Mr. Ward, *June 28*, 1099.
  - Police Force, Strength of, etc., *June 25*, 605.
- Luggacurran Evicted Tenants, Superintendence of Houses Erected for, *June 27*, 951.
- Lunacy
  - Grant, Procedure in Paying, *June 19*, 47 ; *June 27*, 952.
  - Inspector's Report, Date of Presenting, *June 21*, 381.
- McBride, Mr.—Police Cognisance of Visit to Dublin, *June 20*, 189.
- McCartie Estate—Reinstatement of D. and J. Healy, *June 20*, 184.
- MacDonnell, Sir A., Duties, etc.,of, *June 28*, 1151.
- Madden Estate—Reinstatement Applications of F. McHugh and M. A. Keirnan, *June 19*, 50 ; *July 2*, 1384.
- Magherymore, Mullynigh, and Oisk Farms, Ejection Notice in respect of, *June 25*, 611.
- Magistrates—Attendance of Mr. V. Fitzgerald at Petty Sessions, *July 3*, 1607.
- Malone, Colonel, Sale Proposals for Estate of, *June 27*, 937.
- Manchester Estate—Reinstatement of S. Bainey, *June 21*, 378.
- Marble Hill, Sale of, etc., *June 28*, 1101.
- Massy Estate, Sale Negotiations, *June 21*, 380.
- Mount Shannon Estate, Disposal of Grazing Lands on, *June 28*, 1205.
- Muckross Barytes Mines, Inspection of, proposed, *June 26*, 786.
- Mullaghgarrow—Turbary Rights of Purchasing Tenants, *June 25*, 595.
- Nantenan—Decision as to Loan for Mrs. Sheehy, *June 20*, 190.
- National Library Attendants, Pay and Duties of, *June 19*, 29.
- New Inn—Grant to W. O'Neill, *July 3*, 1635.

Bryce, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
- Newman Estate—Case of T. O'Callaghan, *June 20*, 178.
- O'Donel Estate—Progress of Sale Negotiations, *June 28*, 1204.
- O'Grady Estate Sale Negotiations, *June 19*, 29.
- O'Hara Estate Tenantry, Decision as to Memorial from, *June 25*, 605.
- Parliamentary Resolutions, Power of Boards to Refuse to Adopt, *June 25*, 602.
- Persse Estate Untenanted Land,Disposal of, *June 28*, 1105.
- Phibbs Estate
  - Errieff Grazing Farm, Disposal of, *July 2*, 1398.
  - Tubbercurry Portion, Sale proposals for, *June 28*, 1155.
- Poor Law
  - Commission Report, Reason for delay in presenting, *June 19*, 52.
  - Contracts and Tenders, Powers of Guardians as to, *June 25*, 604.
  - Dispensary Doctors, Salaries of, *June 25*, 603.
  - Relief by way of Loan, Powers of Guardians as to, *June 25*, 599.
- Population and Imperial Taxation in 1851 and 1906–7, *June 25*, 625.
- Poyntzpass Constabulary Sergeant, Religion of, *June 20*, 153.
- Prison Warders, Grievances of, *July 3*, 1608.
- Questions Answered orally—Supply of Copies to Members, proposed, *June 28*, 1108.
- Raheen—Reinstatement of J. Sheehy, *June 20*, 190.
- Rate Collection System, Revision of, proposed, *June 25*, 600.
- Rathlin Island Fishing, Damage to, by Steam Trawlers, *July 2*, 1399.
- Reenard Pier Improvements, Decision as to, *June 19*, 48.
- Registry of Title Central Office—*Status* of Staff, *June 26*, 762.
- Roberts Estate, Sale of, etc., *June 20*, 151.
- Roodstown—Case of Mr. Duffy, *July 3*, 1636.
- Roscommon—Reinstatement applications, *June 25*, 592.
- Roughfort School, Closing of, Reason for Dismissal of Teacher, etc., *July 2*, 1398.
- Royal Canal Board, Duties of, etc., *June 28*, 1152.
- Ryefield—Alleged Boycotting of Mr. J. Dowd, *June 25*, 597.
- St. George's Estate—Case of M. Greally, *June 28*, 1104.

Bryce, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
- Scartaglen School—Delay in Granting good Service Increments, alleged, *July 2*, 1399.
- Sheep-Dipping Order, Constabulary Assistance in Enforcing, *June 19*, 48.
- Shelton Estate—Reinstatement of J. Murphy and L. O'Connell, *June 20*, 189, 190.
- Sligo
  - Estates Sold, Price given, etc., *July 2*, 1383.
  - Evicted Tenants—Cases dealt with, *June 28*, 1154.
- Terryglass Graveyard, Condition of, *July 2*, 1388.
- Thomastown Union Evicted Tenants, Claims of, *June 28*, 1098.
- Town Tenants Bill, proposals as to, *June 19*, 51.
- Trawlers, Steam, Extension of Areas forbidden to, proposed, *June 19*, 46.
- Trinity College—Professor of Irish, Election and Payment of, *July 2*, 1382.
- Wakeley Estate, Sale proposals for, *June 25*, 612.
- Walsh Estate, Purchase proposals for, *July 2*, 1386.
- War Office Meat Contracts—Effect of New Rules on Irish Agricultural Interests, *June 19*, 29.
- Wexford—Arbitration Awards to J. Clancy and W. Francis, *July 2*, 1387.
- White Estate—Reinstatement of M. Maloney, *June 20*, 186.
- Wilson Estate
  - Bog Rights of Mr. Duff's sub-tenants, *July 3*, 1608.
  - Reinstatement Claim of M. A. Mortland, *June 20*, 149.
- Woodford Petty Sessions—Dog-Licence Case of J. McMahon, *June 27*, 952.
- Workhouse—Masters and Matrons, Accommodation for Children of, *June 20*, 154.
- Wynne Estate Sale, Holdings Excluded from, *June 25*, 624.

Buchanan, Mr. T. R.—*Financial Secretary, to the War Office* [Perthshire, E.]
- Ammunition, Blank, Regulations as to, *June 25*, 632.
- Canned Foodstuffs, War Office Contracts for—Discontinuance of Rations, proposed, *June 25*, 631.
- Indian Army—Provision of Officers for Native Regiments, *June 25*, 632.
- Payment of Men in the Field, New Scheme for, *June 25*, 633.
- Sheerness Firing Practice, Precautions against Danger from, *June 20*, 164.

Buchanan, Mr. T. R.—*cont.*
- Shoebury Firing Practice, Regulations, *June 20*, 165.
- War Office Meat Contracts — Stipulation as to Home-bred Meat, etc., *June 20*, 166; *June 25*, 633.

Buckhaven Methil and Innerleven Burgh Extension Bill
- *l.* 1R.* *June 22*, 466.
- 2R.* *June 26*, 746.

Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways Bill
- *c. Con.* June 19*, 16.
- 3R.* *June 22*, 493.
- *l.* Commons' Amendts., *Con.* June 25*, 561.

Bull, Sir W. J. [Hammersmith]
- Canned Foodstuff, Charges against American Packing-houses—Report of British Consul, etc., *June 19*, 21.

Burdett-Coutts, Mr. W. L. A. B. [Westminster]
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., June 19*, 70, 114; *June 27*, 1018–1020.

Burghclere, Lord
- Ground Game Bill, 2R., *June 25*, 581; *July 3*, 1560–1564.

Burma
- Opium Trade—Licences, Revenues, Population and Criminal Statistics since 1885—Return ordered, *July 3*, 1595.

Burns, Rt. Hon. J.—*President of the Local Government Board* [Battersea]
- Amersham Water Company, Powers of, as to Private Fire Hydrants, *June 19*, 27.
- Baily Hill Water Supply, proposals as to, *June 27*, 919.
- Canned Foodstuffs
  - Date of Packing, stamping on each tin, proposed *June 25*, 653.,
  - Inspection, Regulations for, Qualifications of Inspectors, etc., *June 25*, 621, 652.
  - Re-labelling Old Stock, Prevention of, *July 2*, 1423.
- Housing of the Working Classes Act—Loans repayable over Eighty Years, *July 2*, 1395.
- Local Authorities' Accounts, Committee on—Publication of Evidence, proposed, *June 27*, 916.
- Local Government Provisional Order (No. 10) Bill, 2R., *July 2*, 1526–1529.
- London—Re-housing of Displaced Persons, extension of Legislative Powers as to, proposed, *July 3*, 1327, 1328.
- Manchester—Rateable Value and Municipal Representation, *June 21*, 349.

[*cont.*

Burns, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
- Medical Officers of Health, proposals for Safeguarding free Expression of Scientific Opinion by, *July 2*, 1422.
- Motors
  - Commission Report, date of Presenting, *June 29*, 1255 ; *July 2*, 1423.
  - Dust Nuisance, proposals for dealing with, *June 27*, 918.
- Poor Law—Sailors and Marines, Admiralty Liability in respect of, *June 22*, 497.
- Poplar—Poor Law Inquiry, Circulation of notes of, proposed, *June 25*, 588.
- Roadside Strips, powers of Rural District Councils to prevent annexation of, *July 2*, 1422.
- Rugby School—alleged Outbreaks of Ophthalmia, etc., *June 29*, 1255.
- Spotted Fever, Compulsory Notification of, proposed, *July 2*, 1421.
- Unemployed—Number Emigrated to Colonies, *June 29*, 1255.
- Vaccination—National Vaccine Establishment, Stock of Lymph, *June 28*, 1116.
- Vagrants, proposals for dealing with, *June 27*, 933.
- Workhouses, Children in, *June 28*, 1116.

Burtonport Railway
- Inquiry into Administration of Line, etc., proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. McVeigh ; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 25*, 591, 592.

Bury Corporation Bill
- *c. Con.* June 29*, 1247.
- 3R.* *July 3*, 1589.

Business of the House
- Course of.
  - *Os.* Mr. A. J. Balfour, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 21*, 387 ; Mr. A. J. Balfour, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Mr. J. Redmond, Mr. Weir, Mr. J. R. Macdonald, Col. Williams, *June 25*, 666, 667.

Butcher, Mr. S. H. [Cambridge University]
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 109, 119, 120 ; *June 20*, 203–206 ; *June 27*, 993–996.

Butter
- Ireland
  - Railway Transit to England, Claim of Irish Co-operative Agency Society for damage during.
    - *Q.* Mr. Joyce ; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 19*, 38.

Buxton, Rt. Hon. S. C.—*Postmaster-General* [Tower Hamlets, Poplar]
- Blind, reduction of Postage on Literature for, Proposed, *June 21*, 395, 427.

Buxton, Rt. Hon. S. C.—*cont.*
- Bristol Telegraph Delays, Inquiry into, *June 28*, 1115.
- Campbeltown Postal Facilities, Improvement of, *June 25*, 619.
- Carrigallen Postal Facilities, Improvement of, *June 25*, 588.
- Contracts
  - Conditions of, Enforcement of Fair Wages Clause, etc., *June 21*, 395, 396, 427, 429.
  - Richards, Messrs., Contracts held by, etc., *June 25*, 651.
- Defaulter Sheets—Rule as to making entries, *July 2*, 1377.
- Derrybrien Postman, Pay and Duties of, *June 25*, 587.
- Dungannon Post Office, Scale of Pay in, *June 19*, 21.
- Electric Lighting Installation and Plant, Expenditure on, *June 21*, 457.
- Enniskillen learner, Pay of, *June 25*, 619.
- Foreign Letter Postage, Changes, in *June 21*, 393.
- Glasgow—Medical Officer, Proposals as to, *June 1* , 39 ; *June 28*, 1145.
  - Female Medical Officer, Appointment of, proposed, *June 28*, 1098.
- Half-penny Postage—Extension of benefits of, Proposals as to, *June 21*, 391.
- House of Commons Letter Boxes, Indicators for, proposed, *July 3*, 1630.
- Ireland, Promotions in—Cases of Gibson and Magennis, *June 28*, 1097.
- Killucan late Postmaster, alleged Distribution of Tracts by, *June 21*, 386.
- Letter collection by Postmen from passers by, *June 25*, 619.
- Letters posted by mistake, Question as to return of, *June 21*, 428.
- Limerick—Delay in paying Pension of M. Larkin, *June 25*, 661.
- Losses, Liability of Post Office for, *June 21*, 428.
- Lottery Circulars sent through the Post, *June 21*, 457.
- Maghery Post Office, Removal of, *June 26*, 774.
- Magilligan Camp Post Office, Clerk in charge of, *June 25*, 589.
- Mail Service
  - Africa, South, Expediting incoming Mails from proposed, *June 28*, 1144.
  - American Mails—Arrangements for Despatch from Southampton, *June 25*, 651 ; *July 2*, 1428.
  - India, Expediting Mails from, proposed, *June 21*, 369.

Buxton, Rt. Hon. S. C.—*cont.*
- Mail Van Drivers, Wages and Conditions of Service of, *June 21*, 427.
- Millom, Telephone extension to, proposed, *June 25*, 652.
- Mount Pleasant Sorting Office—Case of Mr. Carmody, *July 2*, 1377.
- Newspaper Rates to Canada, Decision as to, *June 21*, 395.
- Parcel Post Charges, Reduction in Scale of, *June 21*, 390.
- Penny Post, Universal, Possibility of establishing, *June 21*, 392, 393, 428, 429.
- Postal Order Poundage, Reduction of, *June 21*, 391.
- Postcards, Selling at face value, proposed, *June 21*, 428.
- Postmen
  - Ex-soldiers as rural Postmen, Increasing Number of, proposed, *June 21*, 456.
  - Ex-telegraph Messengers, Vacancies reserved for, *June 21*, 342.
- Revenue, Satisfactory condition of, *June 21*, 389.
- Rural Districts, Proposed Extension of Facilities in, *June 21*, 391, 392.
- Savings Bank
  - Accounts on which no Transactions have taken place for number of years, *July 3*, 1599.
  - Index of Depositors, proposed, *July 3*, 1600.
  - Unclaimed Balances, List of, proposed, *July 3*, 1599.
- Scotland
  - Cumbrae, Island of—Effect of Stoppage of Steamers on Postal Service, *June 28*, 1147.
  - Northern Islands and Districts, Extension of Facilities in, proposed, *June 21*, 425, 426.
- Skibbereen—Alleged Refusal to Pay Postal Order signed in Irish, *June 19*, 56.
- Southampton Docks Telegraph Office, Position of, *June 28*, 1098.
- Stoke Post Office Premises, Condition of, *June 21*, 456.
- Sunday Deliveries in Scotland, Abolition of, proposed, *June 28*, 1144.
- Telegraph Service
  - Central Telegraph Office
    - Increments of Certain Overseers, etc., *June 26*, 752.
    - Staff — Number attached to Engineer's Department, *June 25*, 620.
  - Messengers, Conditions of Appointment of, *June 21*, 456.

Buxton, Rt. Hon. S. C.—*cont.*
- Telegraph Service—*cont.*
  - Rural Districts, Improvement in, proposed, *July 3*, 1601.
  - Scotland—Underground Wires, Progress made with laying, *June 21*, 457.
- Telephone Service, Development of, Satisfactory state of Revenue, etc., *June 21*, 389.
- Trade Unions, Recognition of, by the Postal Authorities, *June 21*, 396.
- Tralee Post Office, Date of building, *July 2*, 1432.
- Travelling Post Offices, Accidents to—Compensation paid to Employees, etc., *June 28*, 1114.
- Underpaid Letters, Reduction in Fine for, *June 21*, 394.
- Vaccination of Employees, Regulations as to, *June 21*, 426.
- Westminster Construction Company, Wages paid by, *June 19*, 39.
- Wireless Telegraphy
  - Extension of System—Attack on the Post Office by Lloyds, *June 21*, 389, 390, 459.
  - Inter-Communication between Ships with Marconi and other systems, Agreement as to, *June 28*, 1143.
- Wireless Telegraphy Bill, Proposals as to, *June 28*, 1145.
- Women Clerks, Salaries of, on Transfer to Edinburgh and Dublin, *June 21*, 346.

Byles, Mr. W. P. [Salford, N.]
- Africa, South—Self-government Proposals
  - Opportunity for discussing, *June 25*, 665.
  - Work of Commission, etc., *June 25*, 643.
- Egypt—Attack on British Officers, Sentences on Natives, etc., *June 28*, 1135.
- Guiana, British—Reply to Petitions for Inquiry into Administration, *June 26*, 765.
- Land Question in Ireland, *June 28*, 1234, 1235.
- Local Government Provisional Order (No. 10) Bill, 2R., *July 2*, 1531.
- Natal Native Rising
  - Bambaata, Effect of Death of, *June 20*, 168.
  - Martial Law, Termination of, proposed, *June 20*, 169.
  - Native Administration—Proposals as to Commission, *June 25*, 643.
  - Prisoners, Alleged Employment of in Kimberley Mines, *June 20*, 168; *June 21*, 357.
- Transvaal Chinese Labour—Crime, Proposals for Prevention of, *June 28*, 1127.

[*cont.*

Byles, Mr. W. P.—*cont.*

Women's Suffrage Disturbances in Cavendish Square—Sentence on Miss Billington, *June 21*, 462.

Cabmen

Case of Driver (Badge 16,872)—Reason for Refusal of Renewal of Licence, etc. *Q.* Mr. Steadman; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 25*, 616, 617.

Caldbeck Estate

Untenanted Land, Disposal of. *Q.* Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 44.

Cambrian Railways Bill

c. *Rep.* June 21*, 340.
Con. June 26*, 748.
3R.* *June 29*, 1247.

l. Commons' Amendts., *Con.* July 2*, 1334.

Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M. [Dublin University]

Education—Intermediate Education Board, Publication of Minutes of, proposed, *July 2*, 1542, 1543.

Campbell-Bannerman, Rt. Hon. Sir H.—*First Lord of the Treasury* [Stirling Burghs]

Africa, South—Self-Government Proposals. Opportunity for discussing, *June 25*, 665.

Agricultural Holdings Consolidation Bill, Proposals as to, *June 28*, 1157.

Agriculture Board Vote, Date of taking, *June 25*, 664, 667; *June 27*, 955.

Business of the House, Course of, *June 21*, 387; *June 25*, 666, 667.

Canada, Emigration to, on False Representations—Legislative Measures for Prevention, *June 25*, 663.

Ceylon Pearl Fisheries, Conditions of leasing, *June 25*, 662, 663.

Coast Erosion Commission, Proposals as to, *June 28*, 1158; *July 2*, 1435.

Colonial Separation Movement—Speech of Senator Ellis, etc., *July 2*, 1435.

Colonial Vote, Opportunity for discussing, *June 20*, 195, 196.

Cornwall — Bodmin Election Petition, Official Notes and Report, Circulation of, proposed, *June 19*, 58; *June 21*, 387.

Crofters' Acts Amendment Bill, Proposals as to, *June 21*, 386.

Dissemination of News in Time of War—Government Control, etc., *June 27*, 954.

Dogs Bill, Date of taking, *June 27*, 955.

Ecclesiastical Discipline Commission Report, Date of Presenting, *June 20*, 194; *June 21*, 354.

Campbell-Bannerman, Rt. Hon. Sir H.—*cont.*

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 26*, 836–840, 843.

Amendments, Government, Date of circulating, *June 20*, 173.

Clause 4—Opportunity for Discussing Amendments, *June 25*, 665; *June 28*, 1159.

Closure, Applying at 10.50 instead of 10.30, proposed, *June 25*, 662.

Commission, Proposals as to, *June 28*, 1159; *July 2*, 1434.

Committee and Report Stages, Interval between, *July 3*, 1611.

Opportunity for discussing, *June 27*, 957, 958.

Education Local Authorities, Legislation to authorise Election of Women as, proposed, *June 25*, 664, 665.

Egypt—Attack on British Officers, Sentence on Natives, etc., *June 27*, 956.

Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, Acts to be included in, *June 27*, 954, 955.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill

Proposals as to, *June 27*, 956.

Whip issued to Members by Agriculture Board, *July 3*, 1638, 1639.

Gambling

Italian Congress, proposals as to British Delegates to, *June 25*, 629.

Shares, etc.—Restrictions on bull and bear operations, proposed, *June 25*, 629.

Government Contracts—Revision of Fair Wages Clause, proposed, *July 2*, 1435.

Great Yarmouth Election Petition, Allegations against Mr. Justice Grantham.

Motion, Opportunity for discussing, *June 19*, 57; *July 2*, 1434.

Local Authorities (Qualification of Women) Bill, Proposals as to, *July 3*, 1611.

Members of Parliament, Free Postage and Travelling Passes for, proposed, *July 3*, 1610.

National Gallery

New Director, Terms of Appointment of, *June 25*, 662.

Trustees, Powers of, to refuse Chantrey Bequest Pictures, *June 20*, 163.

Political Pensions Act Abolition Bill—Government Attitude towards, *June 25*, 630.

Public Trustee Bill, Expediting Passage of, proposed, *June 25*, 663.

Punishments in Public, Discontinuance of, in Countries under the British Flag, proposed, *July 2*, 1433.

[*cont.*

Campbell-Bannerman Rt. Hon. Sir H. *cont.*

Rights of Way, Public, Protection of, *June 27*, 955; *July 2*, 1434.

Russian Anti-Semitic Outrages, British Representations as to, proposed, *July 2*, 1433.

Scottish Estimates, Proposals as to taking, *June 20*, 196.

Sweating, Inquiry into, proposed, *July 3*, 1636, 1637.

Trade Disputes, International Co-operation for Settlement of, proposed, *June 25*, 661.

Trawlers' Certificates Suspension Bill, Proposals as to taking, *July 2*, 1432.

Unemployed

Employment, Effect of Increased Taxation on, *June 26*, 797.

Proposals for dealing with Question, *June 28*, 1158.

Unemployed Workmen Bill, Proposals as to, *June 19*, 58; *June 20*, 195.

Wages Bill, Facilities for, proposed, *July 3*, 1637.

Wireless Telegraphy Bill, Date of taking, *July 2*, 1433.

Campbeltown

Postal Facilities, Improvement of.
Q. Mr. Younger; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 25*, 618, 619.

Canada

Emigration to

Bounties, Information as to Payment of.
Q. Mr. Hazleton; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 27*, 923, 924.

False Representations — Legislative Measures for Prevention, etc.
Q. Mr. Walker; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 25*, 663.

Merchant Ships, Certificates granted to Officers restricted to Canadian Subjects, alleged.
Os. Lord Muskerry, *July 2*, 1336; Earl of Granard, 1337.

Newspaper Rates to, etc., *see under* Post Office.

Canals Bill

c. 1R.* *June 26*, 799.

Canned Foodstuffs

American Packing Establishments, Charges against, Report of British Consul at Chicago.
Q. Sir W. Bull; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *June 19*, 21, 22.
Q. Mr. H. H. Marks; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *June 26*, 767.

Canned Foodstuffs—*cont.*

Australia and New Zealand, System of Inspection, etc., in.
Q. Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 25*, 614.

Date of packing, Stamping on each Tin, proposed.
Q. Mr. T. Davies; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 25*, 653.

Inspection, Regulations as to, Qualifications of Inspectors, etc.
Q. Mr. H. H. Marks; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 25*, 620, 621.
Qs. Mr. Alden; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 25*, 652.

Irish Public Institutions, Use in.
Qs. Mr. Halpin; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 21*, 376, 377.

Re-labelling of Old Stock, Prevention of, *Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Burns, *July 2*, 1423.

Tuberculous Cattle, Precautions against Use of.
Q. Mr. Halpin; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 3*, 1634.

War Office Contracts—Rations of Preserved Meat, Discontinuance of, proposed.
Qs. Mr. Lea; *As.*, Mr. Buchanan, *June 25*, 631.

Canterbury, Archbishop of

Congo Free State— Belgian Mal-administration, *July 3*, 1587, 1588.

Cappaloughlin Estate

Sale Terms, Turbary Rights, etc.
Qs. Mr. Delany, Mr. Kilbride; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 176, 177.
Q. Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 3*, 1609.

Carlile, Mr. E. H. [Hertfordshire, St. Albans]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *July 2*, 1496–1499.

Carrickmore

Orange Procession, Prohibition of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 29*, 1257.

Revision Court for, proposed.
Q. Mr. Murnaghan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 602.

Carrigallen

Postal Facilities, Improvement of.
Q. Mr. T. F. Smyth; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 25*, 588.

Carrington, Earl—*President of the Board of Agriculture*

Agricultural Institutions, Possibility of increasing Government Grants to, *June 25*, 580, 581.

Municipal Corporations Bill, 2R., *June 19*, 7.

[*cont.*

Carrington, Earl—*cont.*
North Sea Fisheries Investigation, Proceedings of International Council, etc., *June 25*, 571.
Poor Rate, Sanctioning of, by Justices—Reason for charging Fees for, *June 21*, 338.

Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir E. H. [Dublin University]
Corlea School, Reason for Withdrawal of Grant from, *July 2*, 1384.
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., June 19*, 87, 91, 95, 96, 104, 111; *June 20*, 227, 228, 233, 234, 290; *June 27*, *972*, 977–979.
Provisions of, *June 28*, 1147.
Voluntary Schools—Contracting-out System, *June 27*, 934.
Great Northern (Ireland) and Midland Railways Bill—Instruction to Committee, *July 3*, 1747–1750.
Land Tenure Bill, *Con., June 22*, 532; *June 29*, 1261–1262, 1297, 1298, 1313–1315.

Carysfort Estate
Sale Negotiations for.
Q. Mr. Cogan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 595, 596.

Castle Iney
Turbary Rights of purchasing Tenants.
Q. Mr. K. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 607.

Castlebar
Ward, J., Case of.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 600, 601.

Castledoherty
Reinstatement Claim of P. Keeny.
Q. Mr. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27*, 942.

Castlemaine, Lord
Took the Oath, *June 29*, 1237.

Cattle
Importation for immediate slaughter, Removal of Restrictions on, proposed.
Q. Dr. Cooper; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *July 2*, 1379, 1380.

Cavan & Leitrim Railway
Extensions, Decision as to.
Q. Mr. W. Long; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1396, 1397.

Cave, Mr. G. [Surrey, Kingston]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com. June 19*, 104; *June 20*, 235, 277; *June 26*, 851; *June 27*, 980; *July 3*, 1692, 1693.
Land Tenure Bill, *Con., June 22*, 509, 517, 527.

Cavendish, Rt. Hon. V. C. W. [Derbyshire, W.]
London County Council (Money) Bill, *Con., June 21*, 448.

Cawdor, Earl
Greenwich Observatory, Erection of London County Council Power Station near—Safe-guarding against Injury to Instruments, etc., *June 21*, 335, 336.

Cawley, Mr. F. [Lancashire, Prestwich]
Land Tenure Bill, *Con., June 22*, 513; *June 29*, 1293.

Cecil, Lord R. [Marylebone, E.]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., June 19*, 61–64, 71, 76, 92, 101, 102, 103, 109, 111, 112, 116; *June 20*, 210, 227, 232, 239, 241, 244, 245, 249, 283; *June 26*, 850; *June 27*, 961, 973, 974, 1029; *July 2*, 1454–1458, 1476; *July 3*, 1684, 1697–1701, 1707, 1722.
Clause 4, Opportunity for discussing, etc., *June 27*, 957, 958.
Closure, applying at 10.50 instead of 10.30, proposed, *June 25*, 662.
Religious Denominational Instruction, Provision for, *June 25*, 656.
Voluntary Schools—Contracting-out System, Effect of, *June 27*, 934.
Great Yarmouth Election Petition—Allegations against Mr. Justice Grantham, etc.
Motion, Opportunity for discussing, *June 19*, 57.
Income Tax Assessment of Earl's Court Exhibitors, *June 28*, 1136.
Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill—Adjournment of Second Reading Debate, proposed, *June 26*, 901.

Cecil, Mr. E. [Aston Manor]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., June 19*, 80, 81; *June 25*, 669–672; *June 27*, 990–992; *July 3*, 1668–1670.

Cecilstown
Fair Rent Appeal of Mr. J. O'Flynn.
Q. Mr. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 43.

Cement Works
Sanitation of, Shelters for Workmen, etc.
Q. Mr. J. Ward; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 28*, 1140.

Census of Production Bill
Agricultural Produce, inclusion of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Beck; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George *June 28*, 1140, 1141.

Ceylon
Civil Establishment Salaries, Compensation for Rate of Exchange, etc.
Qs. Sir H. Cotton; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *June 26*, 764, 765.
Pearl Fisheries, conditions of leasing.
Qs. Sir J. Jardine, Mr. Dalziel; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *June 25*. 638–640.
Qs. Sir J. Jardine; *As.* Sir H. Campbell Bannerman, *June 25* 662, 663.
Qs. Mr. Smeaton, Mr. C. Hobhouse; *As.* Mr. Churchill, Mr. Speaker, *June 27*, 924, 926.
Qs. Mr. Menzies, Mr. J. D. White; *As.* Mr. Churchill, Mr. Speaker, *July 2*, 1407, 1408.
Qs. Mr. Cowan, Mr. Ridsdale, Mr. Smeaton, Sir J. Jardine; *As.* Mr. Churchill, Mr. Speaker, *July 3*, 1615, 1616.

Chairman
Accusation against a Government of packing Offices was not in Order, *June 21*, 420.
Divisions—Tellers, delay in proceeding to Doors of Lobbies, *June 20*, 289.
Education (England and Wales) Bill
Amendments not in Order, *June 19*, 76, 78; *June 25*, 668; *July 2*, 1466, 1513–1515.
Amendment raising a new Clause, Question as to, *July 2*, 1441.
Clause 6, Discussion of, Procedure as to, *July 2*, 1437.
Government Amendments
Clause 4, to, Ruling as to, *June 27*, 1049–1050.
Propriety of discussing General Effect of, in Debate on other Amendments, *June 25*, 670.
Matter outside Scope of Subject under Debate, *June 19*, 117, 120; *June 20*, 202, 212, 213, 217, 231, 232, 266, 267, 268; *June 25*, 678, 708; *June 26*, 867; *June 27*, 972, 981, 985; *July 2*, 1472, 1477, 1498, 1683, 1684, 1708.
Permission to withdraw Amendment having been refused, Division must take place, *June 19*, 105.
Question regarding an Amendment not before the Committee could not be decided, *June 27*, 989.
Second Reading Speech on Committee Stage was not permissible, *June 26*, 863.
Interruptions to Debate, *July 3*, 1661.
Irrelevant matter, *June 21*, 402, 403, 458.
Member entering must not pass between a Member speaking and the Chair, *July 2*, 1477.
"Offensive" not an Unparliamentary word, *June 20*, 259.

Chairman—*cont.*
Opposition to Bill, Right of Chairman to ask Member if he objected, *June 26*, 911.

Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. [Birmingham, W.]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 25*, 703–706; *June 27*, 1001–1006, 1031, 1032.

Channel Ferry Railway and Quay Bill
c. Con. June 19*, 16.
3R.* *June 22*, 494.
l. Commons' Amendts., *Con.* June 25*, 561.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
Rt. Hon. Sir H. Fowler.

Chancellor of the Exchequer
Rt. Hon. H. H. Asquith.

Channel Islands
Blasting Accidents during last five years, Inquiries held, etc.
Q. Mr. K. Hardie; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 25*, 616.

Channing, Mr. F. A. [Northants, E.]
Agricultural Co-operation, Teaching of, by Local Authorities, *June 25*, 590.
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 20*, 211; *July 2*, 1466–1468.
Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 22*, 500, 501, 532.

Charities
[*For* particular places, *see their names.*]

Charity Commission
Capital invested and Agricultural Land sold by, during last Ten Years.
Q. Mr. H. R. Mansfield; *A.* Mr. Trevelyan, *June 19*, 42.

Chaworth, Lord
Took the Oath, *June 22*, 465.

Cheetham, Mr. J. F. [Stalybridge]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 114.

Cheltenham Gas Bill
l. 2R.* *June 19*, 3.
Rep. July 3*, 1557.

Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.—*Attorney-General for Ireland* [Liverpool, Exchange]
Cooscroum Landing Place, Decision as to, *June 26*, 781.
Cork Magistracy, Religion of, *June 26*, 781.
Dog Licences, Procedure in Stamping, etc., *June 20*, 176.
Fisheries—Date of Presenting Return as to Boats, *June 26*, 782.
Gort Petty Sessions—Case of Mr. Hart, *June 25*, 660.

[*cont.*

Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.—*cont.*
Housing of the Working Classes—Increase of Facilities, proposed, *June 26*, 783.
Land Purchase
Guarantee Deposits under Ashbourne Act, Rules as to, *June 19*, 26.
Tenants' Improvements, Protection of, *June 20*, 175.
Magistrates
Adjudication in cases of Personal Interest, alleged, *June 28*, 1150.
Fees on Appointment of, *June 19*, 42, 43.
Marine Works Act, Proposals as to Extension of Operations of, *June 26*, 782.
Prisoners, Petitions for Release of—Case of J. McCann, *June 28*, 1149, 1150.

Chief Secretary for Ireland
Rt. Hon. J. Bryce.

Children
Workhouses, Number in.
Q. Sir J. Kennaway; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 28*, 1115, 1116.

China
Customs Administration, Decision as to—Note of Wai-Wu-Pu, etc.
Q. Mr Lonsdale; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *July 2*, 1414.
Q. Mr. J. Walton; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *July 3*, 1597.
Missionaries, Protection of, Settlement of Nan-Chang claim, etc.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *July 3*, 1620
Opium Trade—Parliamentary Proposals for dealing with Question.
Qs. Mr. Sloan; *As.* Mr. Ellis, *June 19*, 36
Pekin—Barrack Accommodation for British Troops.
Q. Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 28*, 1109.
Shanghai, *see that title.*
Trade Report Presented, *June 21*, 298; *June 22*, 468; *July 2*, 1335.

Chiozza Money, Mr. L. G. [Paddington, N.]
Motor Omnibus Traffic, Regulation of, *July 3*, 1623.
Steel Trade—Agreements as to Price, etc., *July 3*, 1625, 1626.
Wages Bill, Facilities for, proposed, *July 3*, 1637.

Churchill, Mr. W. L. S.—*Under-Secretary for the Colonies* [Manchester, N.W.]
Africa, Central
Elephant Marsh Game Preserve, Danger to Chiromo from Lions in, *July 2*, 1390.
Labour Contracts, Enforcement of in British Protectorate, *June 27*, 923.

Churchill, Mr. W. L. S.—*cont.*
Africa, East
Portuguese Railway Rates on Goods for the Transvaal, *June 20*, 167.
Slavery, Abolition of, Progress made with, *July 3*, 1612.
Sleeping Sickness, Precautions against' Removal of Seat of Government from Entebbe, proposed, *June 28*, 1123, 1124.
Timber Concession, Conditions of, *July 3*, 1612, 1613.
Africa, South
Blue Books and Papers, Expediting publication of, proposed, *June 26*, 754.
Constabulary—Delay in Payment to Messrs. Stillwell & Son, *June 19*, 22.
Import Duty on Second-hand Clothing, *July 2*, 1410.
Self-Government Proposals—Work of Commission, Date of Presenting Reports, etc., *June 25*, 643.
Australasian Commonwealth, Confidential nature of Despatches to, *June 19*, 34.
Bisset, Mr. C., Case of, *June 28*, 1113.
Canadian—Immigration Bounties, Information as to Payment of, *June 27*, 924.
Canned Foodstuffs from Australia and New Zealand—System of Inspection, *June 25*, 614.
Ceylon
Civil Establishment Salaries, Compensation for Rate of Exchange, etc., *June 26*, 764, 765.
Pearl Fisheries, Conditions of Leasing, *June 25*, 639, 640; *June 27*, 924–926; *July 2*, 1407.
Foreign Commercial Agents in British Colonies—Return, proposed, *June 26*, 766.
Gilbert and Ellice Islands—Tabling Report as to Charge against Commissioner, proposed, *June 25*, 643.
Guiana, British reply to Petitions for Inquiry into Administration, *June 26*, 765; *June 28*, 1131.
Jewish Territorial Society, Colonisation Scheme of, *June 25*. 642.
Lagos, Oil-boring in, Restrictions on, proposed, *July 3*, 1598.
Malta
Protestant Mission Services, Reason for prohibiting, *June 19*, 35, 36.
Religious Processions, Regulations as to, *June 26*, 766.

[*cont.*

Churchill, Mr. W. L. S.—*cont.*
- Natal
  - Native Administration—Proposals as to Commission, *June 25*, 643.
  - Native Rising
    - Bambaata, Effect of Death of, *June 20*, 169.
    - Death Sentence on Natives, Report of Court Martial etc., *June 25*, 634; *July 2*, 1410.
    - Martial Law, Termination of, proposed, *June 20*, 169.
    - Prisoners, Alleged Employment of in Kimberley Mines, *June 20*, 168; *June 21*, 357; *June 25*, 614.
- Nigeria
  - Liquor Traffic Restrictions on, *June 28*, 1131.
  - Military Operations, Reason for unrest among Natives, etc., *July 2*, 1410.
- South African War
  - Chiveiback, Dr., Compensation Claim of, *June 25*, 641.
  - Natives, Firearms issued to and returned by, *June 25*, 633.
  - *Standard and Diggers News* Premises, etc., Military use of—Basis of Payment, *June 25*, 635; 636; *June 28*, 1126; *July 3*, 1598, 1614, 1615.
- Transvaal
  - Chinese Labour
    - Cason Mine Prosecution, Information as to, *June 28*, 1128, 1129; *July 2*, 1406, 1407.
    - Control Commission, Constitution of, *June 21*, 344.
    - Corporal Punishment—Decision as to prosecution of Witthauer, *June 25*, 640.
    - Crimes—Measures for Protection of White People, etc., *June 21*, 343, 358; *June 28*, 1127–1129.
    - "Indravelli" and "Cranley"—Antecedents, etc., of arrivals by, *June 25*, 641.
    - Nourse Mine Riot, Cause of, *June 21*, 343; *June 28*, 1129.
    - Repatriation
      - Number Applying for, *June 28*, 1130; *July 2*, 1409.
      - Translation of Notification into Chinese, *June 20*, 156, 167; *June 21*, 358, 359; *June 27*, 917; *June 28*, 1124, 1125.
      - "Tremble and Obey"—Use of Term in Notification, *June 25*, 636–638; *June 28*, 1130.

Churchill, Mr. W. L. S.—*cont.*
- Transvaal—*cont.*
  - Customs Tariff, New, Information as to, *June 19*, 35.
  - Estate Duty, English, Levy of—Revision of System, proposed, *June 27*, 916.
  - Native Labour
    - Kaffirs Employed on 31st May, 1906, *July 2*, 1390.
    - Recruiting, Facilities for and proposals as to, *July 2*, 1408, 1409.
    - Statistics as to, *June 20*, 155.
  - Trade Routes to Coast
    - *Modus vivendi* with Portugal, Nature of, *June 25*, 644.
    - Statistics as to, *June 25*, 614.
  - War Contribution Loan, Enforcement of Payment of, proposed, *July 2*, 1399.
- Tse-tse Fly, Date of Presenting Dr. Davey's Report on, *June 25*, 644.

Civil List Pensions
- Copy Presented, *June 20*, 146; *June 21*, 298.

Civil Service
- Irish Clerks, Transfer of, to Dublin.
  - *Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 19*, 23.
- Superannuation—Appointments without Certificate, *July 2*, 1335, 1372.
- Writers, Compulsory Retirement of, Gratuity to, etc.
  - *Q.* Sir G. Kekewich; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *July 3*, 1601. 1602.

Civil Service Estimates
- Ireland—Agriculture Department, etc.—£110,146, *Com.*, *June 28*, 1161, 1212.
- Post Office, Including Telegraphs—£10,496,714, *Com.*, *June 21*, 388, 449.

Clacton Urban District Council Bill
- *c. Rep.* June 22*, 469.
- *Con.* June 29*, 1247.
- 3R.* *July 3*, 1589.

Clancy, Mr. J. J. [Dublin Co., N]
- Howth Harbour—Placing Buoy in Sound, proposed, *June 21*, 344.
- Labourers (Ireland) Acts—Interest charged on Loans, *June 20*, 192.
- Lunacy Inspector's Report, Date of Presenting, *June 21*, 381.

Clanricarde Estate
  Evicted Tenants — Reinstatements effected.
    Q. Mr. J. Roche; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27*, 951.
  Situation on, Protection of Tenants, etc.
    Qs. Mr. J. Roche, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Kilbride, Mr. McNeill; *As.* Mr. Bryce, Mr. Speaker, *June 27*, 946–949.

Clare
  Evicted Tenants, Number of, Progress made with Reinstatements, etc.
    Q. Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 601.
    Qs. Mr. Halpin, Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 784, 785.

Cleaver Estate
  Grazing Farm, Disposal of.
    Q. Mr. Hayden; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27*, 940.

Cleland, Mr. J. W. [Glasgow, Bridgeton]
  Glasgow Post Office Medical Officer, Proposals as to, *June 19*, 39; *June 28*, 1145.

Clement's Estate
  Skreeny Farm, Disposal of.
    Q. Mr. Dolan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 592, 593.

Cloontabrit
  Bogs, Disposal of.
    Q. Mr. T. Smyth; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 49, 50.

Clough, Mr. W. [Yorks., W.R., Skipton]
  House of Commons Letter Boxes, Indicacators for, proposed, *July 3*, 1630.

Clynes, Mr. J. R. [Manchester, N.E.]
  Post Office Contracts held by Messrs. Richards, etc., *June 25*, 650.
  Railways, Nationalisation of, *June 28*, 1142.
  Women's Suffrage Disturbance in Cavendish Square—Sentence on Miss Billington, etc., *June 25*, 648.

Coach-making Trade
  Lead-poisoning Cases in.
    Q. Mr. A. Henderson; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 28*, 1139, 1140.

Coal
  Duty on
    Abolition of.
      Os. Viscount St. Aldwyn, *June 21*, 301; Lord Welby, 307, 308; Lord Joicey, 313, 314; Marquess of Ripon, 316, 317.
        Effect of, on Home Consumers.
          Os. Viscount St. Aldwyn, *June 21*, 301.
    Yield of.
      Os. Viscount St. Aldwyn, *June 21*, 301.

Coast Erosion
  Commission, Proposals as to.
    Qs. Mr. Beckett, Captain Donelan; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 28*, 1158.
    Q. Mr. Fenwick; *A.* Sir H. Campbell Bannerman, *July 2*, 1435.

Cochrane, Mr. T. H. [Ayrshire, N.]
  Land Tenure Bill, *con.*, *June 22*, 531; *June 29*, 1260, 1307, 1308.

Cogan, Mr. D. J. [Wicklow, E.]
  Carysfort Estate, Terms of Purchase of, *June 25*, 595.
  Lunacy
    Asylums, Pensions withheld from Inmates of, *July 2*, 1394.
    Irish Grant, Procedure in Paying, *June 19*, 47; *June 27*, 952.

Collins, Sir W. J. [St. Pancras, W.]
  "Courier" Wreck Inquiry, Result of, *June 19*, 37.
    Channel Islands Merchant Shipping Regulations, etc., *June 26*, 774, 775.
  National Vaccine Establishment—Stock of Lymph of, *June 28*, 1115.
  Post Office—Dismissal of Employees at Mount Pleasant, *June 21*, 453.
  South Kensington Technological College, Proposals as to, *June 26*, 776, 777.

Colonial Marriages Bill
  l. 3R.* *June 19*, 6.
  c. 1R.* *June 22*, 498.

Colonial Office
  Secretary of State—Rt. Hon. Earl of Elgin.
  Parliamentary Secretary, — Mr. W. Churchill.
  Vote, Opportunity for Discussing.
    Qs. Mr. A. E. W. Mason, Sir J. Dickson-Poynder; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 20*, 195, 196.

Colonies and Protectorates
  See also Names of Colonies, etc.
  Foreign Commercial Agents—Return proposed.
    Q. Mr. Laidlaw; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 26*, 765, 766.
  Railways, Length of, Capital, etc.—Return ordered, *July 2*, 1375.
  Reports, Annual, Presented, *June 20*, 146; *June 21*, 298; *June 28*, 1083, 1096.
  Separation Movement—Speech of Senator Ellis, etc.
    Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *July 2*, 1435.

Colthurst Estate
Reinstatement Applications of P. Mullane and J. Murphy.
Qs. Mr. Sheehan; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 625; *June 26*, 760.

Commerce
See Trade and Commerce.

Companies
Returns of Joint Stock Companies, Penalty for not Filing, etc.
Qs. Mr. Barran; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *July 2*, 1418, 1419.

Company Law Amendment Committee
Report Presented, *July 3*, 1559, 1594.

Condon, Mr. T. J. [Tipperary, E.]
Magistrates, Fees on Appointment of, *June 19*, 42, 43.

Congested Districts Board (Ireland)
Clerks, Temporary, Examination System for.
Q. Mr. V. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 795.

Compulsory Powers with regard to Acquisition of Land, proposed.
Os. Mr. C. O'Kelly, *June 28*, 1164–1166; Mr. O'Dowd, 1172; Mr. Byles, 1234, 1235.

Condition of, Character of Land, etc.
Os. Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1198–1199.

Constitution of, Necessity forRevising, etc.
Os. Dr. Ambrose, *June 28*, 1174; Mr. Hayden, 1179; Mr. Dolan, 1182, 1183.

Direct Representative from Kerry and Cork, Appointment of, proposed.
Os. Mr. Boland, *June 28*, 1213; Mr. Murphy, 1219.

Land Clerks employed by.
Qs. Mr. Sloan; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 185.

Land Purchased and Sold by, Progress made, etc.
Os. Dr. Ambrose, *June 28*, 1174–1176; Mr. Hayden, 1177–1181; Mr. Dolan, 1181–1183; Mr. Duffy, 1183; Mr. Bryce, 1203; Mr. Dillon, 1227–1229; Mr. Byles, 1234, 1235.
Qs. Mr. McHugh; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 754, 783, 784.

Representative for South of Ireland, Appointment of, proposed
Os. Mr. E. Barry, *June 28*, 1234.

Work of.
Os. Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1200–1203, 1206; Mr. W. O.Brien, 1210, 1211; Mr. Barrie, 1220; Mr. Dillon, 1225, 1226; Mr. H. Law, 1231.

Congested Districts Board (Scotland)
Settlements on the Land, Conditions of.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *July 2*, 1430.

Congo Free State
Belgian Administration
Casement, Mr. R. Report, and work of
Os. Lord Reay, *July 3*, 1569; Lord Fitzmaurice, 1577; Marquess of Lansdowne, 1583, 1584.

Circuit Courts, Establishment of.
Os. Lord Reay, *July 3*, 1574.

Circular Despatch of August 8, 1903, Terms of.
Os. Lord Reay, *July 3*, 1568, 1574, 1575.

Consular Courts, Right of European Powers to establish.
Os. Lord Fitzmaurice, *July 3*, 1580, 1581; Marquess of Lansdowne, 1586; Marquess of Ripon, 1589.

Decrees issued by Government of the Free State, Provisions of.
Os. Lord Reay, *July 3*, 1568–1574; Lord Fitzmaurice, 1576–1579; Marquess of Lansdowne, 1584.

Financial Condition of, Lack of adequate Information as to.
Os. Lord Reay, *July 3*, 1570, Marquess of Lansdowne, 1584.

Forced Labour for Public Works, Decree as to.
Os. Lord Reay, *July 3*, 1573; Lord Fitzmaurice, 1578.

Hague Conference, bringing Question before, proposed.
Os. Lord Fitzmaurice, *July* 3, 1582.

Inspectors to secure to Natives their Lawful Rights, Powers of
Os. Lord Reay, *July 3*, 1573; Marquess of Lansdowne, 1585.

Officials,Necessity for improving *status* of.
Os. Lord Reay, *July 3*, 1570.

Police, and Military Operations,Decree as to.
Os. Lord Reay, *July 3*, 1573.

Power of Great Britain, under Berlin Act, to claim that Obligations undertaken by the Congo State should be fulfilled.
Os. Lord Reay, *July 3*, 1569, 1575; Lord Fitzmaurice, 1579–1582; Marquess of Lansdowne, 1583, 1585, 1586; Archbishop of Canterbury, 1587, 1588; Marquess of Ripon, 1588, 1589.
Q. Mr. Alden; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *June 26*, 769.

Procureur-Géneral, *status* of
Os. Lord Fitzmaurice, *July 3*, 1577.

[*cont.*

Congo Free State—*cont.*
Belgian Administration—*cont.*
Public Opinion in Belgian.
Os. Lord Reay, *July 3*, 1575; Lord Fitzmaurice, 1582; Marquess of Ripon, 1588.
Report of Commissions of Inquiry.
Os. Lord Reay, *July 3*, 1569.
Rights of Natives to Lands occupied according to Local Customs—Decree as to.
Os. Lord Reay, *July 3*, 1570.
Taxation of Natives, Decrees as to
Collective Tax.
Os. Lord Reay, *July 3*, 1572.
Labour Tax, etc.
Os. Lord Reay, *July 3*, 1570, 1571; Lord Fitzmaurice, 1578.
Trade, Freedom of, Suggestions of Powers signatory to Berlin Act.
Os. Lord Reay, *July 3*, 1574, 1575.
Tribal Chiefs, Decree as to
Os. Lord Reay, *July 3*, 1572, 1573.

Connaught
Land Act in, Failure of, alleged.
Os. Mr. C. O'Kelly; *June 28*, 1162–1164; Mr. O'Dowd, 1171–1174.
Land Sales in, Allegations against Landlords, etc.
Os. Mr. C. O'Kelly, *June 28*, 1162–1164; Mr. Hayden, 1177; Mr. T. W. Russell, 1190, 1229, 1230.
Scheduling all Counties in, as Congested Areas.
Os. Mr. C. O'Kelly, *June 28*, 1166–1168; Mr. Bryce, 1207.

Connaught, Duke of
Reason for visit of, to Sweden, etc.
Q. Mr. Morton; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 21*, 356.

Constabulary, Royal Irish
See also names of places.
Farrell, Head Constable, Charges against—Evidence of Shankey and Bradley, etc.
Q. Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 627.
Fund, Sum to Credit of, Purposes to which applied, etc.
Qs. Mr. Sloan; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27*, 942.
Q. Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 3*, 1635.
Long, Sergeant, Reason for Transfer of.
Q. Mr. McKillop; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 152.
Masterson and Cryan, Constables, Charges against—Progress of Settlement, etc.
Q. Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 787.

Constabulary, Royal Irish—*cont.*
Moriarty, Mr. H., Service of, Reason for Transfer, etc.
Q. Mr. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1101, 1102.
Sheep dipping, compulsory, Assistance in enforcing Order as to.
Q. Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 47, 48.

Conveyancing Bill
l. Report from Select Committee, *June 25*, 564.

Convicts
Licences, *see under* Penal Serviteude Acts.

Cooper, Dr. G. [Southwark, Bermondsey]
Ascot Police Force, Strength and cost of, *June 28*, 1138.
Cattle imported for immediate slaughter, Removal of Restrictions on, proposed, *July 2*, 1379.
Tramway Schemes—Abolition of Borough Councils' Right of Veto, proposed, *June 28*, 1142.
University Colleges Commission, Terms of Reference to, *June 22*, 496.

Cooscroum
Landing Place, Decision as to.
Q. Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *June 26*, 781.

Corbett, Mr. T. L. [Down, N.]
Education—Protestant National Teachers' Union, Reason for refusing to receive Deputation from, *July 2*, 1385.
Malta—Reason for prohibiting Protestant Mission Services, *June 19*, 36.
Monastic and Conventual Institutions Bill—*Motion* for Leave to introduce, *June 26*, 799, 800.

Corea
Trade Report Presented, *July 2*, 1335.

Cork
Magistracy, Religion of.
Q. Mr. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *June 26*, 781.

Cork City Railways and Works Bill
c. 3R., *June 26*, 891.
l. 1R.* *June 28*, 1082.

Cork County
Railway Extension, Necessity for and Proposals as to,
Q. Mr. E. Barry; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 785.

Corlea
School, Reason for withdrawal of Grant from.
Q. Sir E. Carson; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1384, 1385.

Cornamona
School Teacher, Name of.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 21*, 383.

Cornwall
Parliamentary Election Petition for Bodmin Division.
Certificate and Report of Justices, Presented, *July 2*, 1366.
Distribution of, to Members, proposed.
Q. Sir G. Kekewich; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 21*, 387.
Corrupt or illegal Practices at, Decision as to, *July 2*, 1367.
Shorthand Writer's Notes of Evidence, and Judgments, Presented, *July 2*, 1367, 1368.
Circulation of, proposed.
Qs. Mr. Lea, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 19*, 57, 58.

Corporal Punishment
Sentences inflicted (1905) Return ordered, *July 3*, 1595.

Cotton, Sir H. J. S. [Nottingham, E.]
Assam—alleged Execution of reprieved Prisoner, *July 3*, 1617.
Ceylon—Civil Establishment Salaries, Compensation for Rate of Exchange, etc., *June 26*, 764, 765.
India
Bengal, Eastern
Backergunge—alleged irregularity in disposing of criminal cases, *June 21*, 350.
Orders as to re-admission of Schoolboys, etc., *June 21*, 359.
Religious Processions, Restrictions on, *June 21*, 349; *July 3*, 1617.
Calcutta Madrasseh, Appointment to, *June 26*, 767.
Transvaal Chinese Labour, Repatriation—Text of Notification, *June 25*, 637.

County of Durham Electric Power Supply Bill
c. 2R.* *July 2*, 1370.

"Courier" Wreck
Inquiry, Result of. etc.
Q. Sir W. J. Collins; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 19*, 37, 38.
Assimilation of Channel Islands Merchant Shipping Regulations to those of Great Britain, proposed.
Qs. Sir W. J. Collins; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 26*, 774, 775.

Courthope, Mr. G. L. [Sussex, Rye]
Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 22*, 517–519; *June 29*, 1266–1268, 1293.
Navy Pensions—Case of G. Howe, *June 20*, 147.
Volunteers, Ammunition supplied to, *June 21*, 355.

Cowan, Mr. W. H. [Surrey, Guildford]
Ceylon Pearl Fisheries, Conditions of Leasing, *July 3*, 1615.
German Naval Shipbuilding Programme, *July 2*, 1400.

Cox, Mr. H. [Preston]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 27*, 988; *July 3*, 1672.
Clause 4, Opportunity for Discussing, *June 28*, 1159.
Roadside strips, Powers of Rural District Councils to prevent annexation of, *July 2*, 1422.
Unemployed—Effect of increased Taxation on Employment, *June 26*, 797.

Craig, Capt. J. [Down, E.]
Army
Admission of Irish Candidates, Procedure for, *July 2*, 1403.
Payment of Men in the Field, New Scheme for, *June 25*, 632.
China — Barrack Accommodation for British Troops at Pekin, *June 28*, 1109.
Great Northern (Ireland) and Midland Railways Bill—Instruction to Committee, *July 3*, 1745.
Irish Language, Teaching in Schools, *June 25*, 600.
Militia—Ballykinlar Camp Meat supply, *June 21*, 356.
Post Office—Letters and Telegrams in Rural Districts, Improvement of System of Delivery, proposed, *June 21*, 460.

Craig, Mr. C. C. [Antrim, S.]
Bankruptcy Law, Irish, Inquiry into, proposed, *June 26*, 796.
Belfast Police Inquiry, Information as to, *June 28*, 1156.
Loughrea — Disturbances at Eviction of Mr. Ward, *June 28*, 1099.

Craik, Sir H. [Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Con.*, *June 19*, 116–118; *June 25*, 706–707; *July 3*, 1649–1652.

Crawford, Earl of
Greenwich Observatory, Erection of London County Council power station near—Safeguarding against injury to Instruments, etc., *June 21*, 329–333.

Crellin's Patents Bill
c. *Rep.** *June 21*, 340.
3R.* *June 25*, 582.

Crenagh Glebe
Reinstatement Application of J. Reilly.
Q. Mr. V. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 53.

Crete
Administration—Work of International Commission.
Qs. Mr. Lonsdale; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *July 3*, 1620, 1621.

Crimean War
Brosnihan, C., Case of.
Q. Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 25*, 613.

Criminal Appeal Bill
l. Report from Standing Committee, *July 3*, 1560.

Crimes and Criminal Offences
Defaulting Solicitors—Allusion to Case in Return as Rex v. ——
Q. Mr. Bottomley; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 28*, 1139.
Probation Guardianship of Offenders, System of.
Q. Mr. Pickersgill; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 25*, 649.

Crofters Acts Amendment Bill
Date of Introducing
Q. Mr. Morton; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 21*, 386.
Qs. Mr. Weir; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *June 25*, 658.

Crombie, Mr. J. W. [Kincardineshire]
Teachers' Pensions, Supplementing by certain public Monies, proposed, *June 21*, 372.

Crookenden and Casey Estate
Dixon, J., Case of.
Q. Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1153, 1154.

Crooks, Mr. W. [Woolwich]
Woolwich Arsenal Discharges, Decision as to, *June 27*, 922.

Cross, Mr. A. [Glasgow, Camlachie]
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, Complaint and Prosecutions under—Return proposed, *June 21*, 347.
Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill—Whip issued to Members, *July 3*, 1637, 1638.

Cules
National School, Decision as to rebuilding.
Q. Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1117.

Cumberland
Inclosures of Common Land made under Acts 1845–1899—Return as to, Ordered, *June 26*, 912.

Cumberland Electricity and Power Gas Bill
c. 2R.* *June 25*, 583.

Cumbrae, Island of
Pier Dues Dispute, Proposals for Settlement of.
Q. Mr. Barrie; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George *June 27*, 932.
Qs. Mr. Lamont, Mr. Rainy, Mr. Clynes; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, Mr. Speaker, *June 28*, 1141, 1142.
Q. Mr. Lamont; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 28*, 1146, 1147.

Curraghlahan
Reinstatement Claim of W. O'Brien.
Qs. Mr. Lundon, Mr. O'Shaughnessy; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 788.

Cusack Estate
Sale Proposals for.
Q. Mr. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1389.

Customs and Excise
Inspectors, Promotion system.
Q. Mr. H. H. Marks; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 25*, 621, 622.
Statistical Office Staff, Strength of, etc.
Q. Mr. C. Hay; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 20*, 159.

Dalziel, Mr. J. H. [Kirkcaldy Burghs]
Colonial Governors as Directors of Trading Companies, *June 25*, 640.
Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill, *Con.*, *June 19*, 141.
Post Office
Appointments to Highest Positions in Scotland, Claims of Scotchmen, *June 21*, 452.
South African Mail Service, Delays in, etc., *June 21*, 452, 453.
Salisbury Railway Accident—Proposals as to Inquiry, etc., *July 2*, 1419.
Telegrams, Sunday, Allowing greater Facilities for Despatch of, *June 21*, 453.
Transvaal, Chinese Labourers—Repatriation—Text of Notification, *June 27*, 638.

Dangerous Performances Bill
c. 1R.* *June 25*, 668.

Dartmouth, Earl of
Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill, *Com.*, *June 22*, 474, 478–480.

Davies, Mr. D. [Montgomeryshire]
Shanghai—Reorganisation of Administration etc., proposed, *July 2*, 1411.
Timber, Railway Rates for, *July 2*, 1418.

Davies, Mr. T. [Fulham]
Canned Food stuffs—Stamping Date of Packing on each Tin, proposed, *June 25* 653.
Tram Cars, Electric—Inquiry into Brake System proposed, *June 27*, 918.

Davies, Mr. T. H. [Hackney, N.]
Bengal and Bombay Civil Service Provident and Pension Funds, Information as to, *June 25*, 623.
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 25*, 715.

De Freyne Estate
Ballyfindon Portion—Progress of Negotiations for Sale of.
Os. Mr. Duffy, *June 28*, 1184.
Chasefield District, Necessity for Road in.
Q. Mr. O'Dowd; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 21*, 378.
Sheepwalk, Construction of Road to.
Q. Mr. J. O'Kelly; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1383, 1384.

Death Duties
Departmental Committee, Date of Appointing, etc
Q. Mr. Sears; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *July 2*, 1378.

Deaths
Annual Lists for Electoral Registration Purposes, Orders as to and Remuneration for.
Q. Mr. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 21*, 351.

Defence of the Empire
Dissemination of News in War Time, Government Control over, etc.
Qs. Mr. A. Lee; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 27*, 954.

Delany, Mr. W. [Queen's Co., Ossory]
Adair Estate, Sale Negotiations for, *June 25*, 594.
Caldbeck Estate Untenanted Land, Disposal of, *June 19*, 44.
Cappaloughlin Estate Sale Terms, Turbary Rights, etc., *June 20*, 176; *July 3*, 1609.
Constabulary
Fund, Amount to Credit of, etc., *July 3*, 1635.
Masterson and Cryan, Case of—Progress made with Settlement, etc., *June 26*, 787.
Fitzgerald, Mr. V., Attendance of, at Petty Sessions, *July 3*, 1607.
Great Southern and Western Railway—Danger from Sparks from Engines, etc., *July 2*, 1393.
Johnsgrove—Reinstatement of L. McEvoy, *June 19*, 30.

Delany, Mr. W.—*cont.*
Land Commission, Clerks employed by, *June 20*, 187.
Sheep-Dipping Order, Constabulary Assistance in enforcing, *June 19*, 47.
Straboe—Alleged cutting away of Water Supply of Mr. Dowling's Mill, *July 2*, 1393.

Derby Gas Bill
l. 2R.* *June 19*, 3.

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Electric Power Bill
c. *Con.** *June 21*, 339.
3R.* *June 25*, 582.
l. 1R.* *June 25*, 561.
2R.* *July 2*, 1334.

Derrybrien
Postman, Pay and Duties of.
Q. Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 25*, 587.

Devlin, Mr. C. R. [Galway]
Galway—Distance from certain places, *July 3*, 1595.
Lights Board, Constitution of, *July 2*, 1431.
Post Office
American and Canadian Mails, Uncertainty as to Times of Departure, *June 21*, 432.
British Mails carried by German Steamers to United States, *June 25*, 65; *July 2*, 1428.
Contracts, Allocation of, *June 21*, 432.
Newspaper Rates to Canada, Decision as to, *June 21*, 431.
Telephonic Facilities in Ireland, Proposals as to Extension of, *June 21*, 432.

Dewar, Mr. J. A. [Inverness]
Lovat's Scouts, Additional Squadron for, proposed, *June 28*, 1109.
Uig Medical Officer, Provision of House for, *July 2*, 1429.

Dickinson, Mr. W. H. [St. Pancras, N.]
London County Council (Money) Bill, *Con.*, *June 21*, 444, 445.

Dickson-Poynder, Sir J. [Wilts, Chippenham]
Africa, South—Boers Emigrated since the War, Number of, etc., *June 25*, 642.
Colonial Vote, Opportunity for discussing, *June 20*, 195.
Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 22*, 509.

Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir C. W. [Gloucester, Forest of Dean]
London—Extension of Legislative Powers as to Re-housing of displaced Persons, proposed, *July 3*, 1327, 1328.
Unemployed Persons emigrated to the Colonies, *June 29*, 1254.

Dillon, Mr. J. [Mayo, E.]

Clanricarde Estate, Situation on, etc., *June 27*, 947.

Congested Districts Board, Work of, *June 28*, 1225–1229.

Education

Intermediate Board Rules for 1906–7, Resolution of House of Commons regarding—Refusal of Board to carry out, *July 2*, 1547, 1548.

Statement in Dublin Newspapers, etc., *June 20*, 148, 180, 181.

School Building Grants, Decision as to, *June 21*, 382.

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 64, 68, 69, 78, 86, 112; *June 20*, 202, 203, 217, 282; *June 26*, 829–836; *June 27*, 968, 976, 1012, 1013, 1030, 1033; *July 2*, 1448–1453; *July 3*, 1666–1667.

Clause 3, Interpretation of, *July 3*, 1639, 1641, 1642.

Clause 8, Proposals as to, *July 2*, 1426.

Reprint of, proposed, *July 3*, 1639.

Egypt—Attack on British Officers, Sentence on Natives, etc, *June 21*, 361; *June 27*, 956; *June 28*, 1111, 1133, 1134; *July 2*, 1412–1414.

House of Commons Ventilation, Complaint as to, *June 21*, 371.

Dingwall and Cromarty Light Railway

Progress made with.

Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *June 25*, 615, 616.

Dockyards, Naval

See under Navy.

Dodd, Serjeant W. H. [Tyrone, N.]

Great Northern (Ireland) and Midland Railways Bill—Instruction to Committee, *July 3*, 1738–1739.

Intermediate Board Rules for 1906–7—Withdrawal of, and Substitution of Amended Rules, proposed, *July 2*, 1550, 1551.

Dogs Bill

c. Report from Standing Committee, *June 20*, 196.

Report Stage, Date of Taking.

Q. Mr. Morrell; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 27*, 955.

Dolan, Mr. [Leitrim, N.]

Aghanlish—Decision as to McGlone's holding, *June 21*, 380.

Clements Estate—Disposal of Skreeny Farm, *June 25*, 592.

Congested Districts Board Constitution and Administration Allegations against, *June 28*, 1181–1185.

Dolan, Mr.—*cont.*

Emigration, Cause of Increase in, *June 20*, 192.

Mullaghgarrow—Turbary Rights of Purchasing Tenants, *June 25*, 595.

Donelan, Captain A. J. C. [Cork, E.]

Coast Erosion Commission, Irish Representation on, *June 28*, 1158.

Motor Traffic, Proposals for Regulating, *June 25*, 648.

National School Teachers—Irish Teachers leaving for Great Britain since 1900, *June 25*, 625.

Post Office Women Clerks, Salaries of, in Dublin and Edinburgh, *June 21*, 345.

Dopping Estate.

Reinstatement Claims of J. Smythe and P. Victory.

Qs. Mr. Farrell; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1106, 1107.

Dover Corporation Bill

c. 2R.* *June 27*, 913.

Dowlais Gas Bill

l. Rep.* *June 21*, 297.

3R.* *June 26*, 746.

Drumtullagh

School Teacher's Residence, Conditions of Loan for.

Q. Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 21*, 377.

Q. Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 25*, 660.

Dublin

Hospitals — Report (1905–6) Presented, *June 19*, 4, 20.

O'Carroll, Mr. P., Disturbance at Auction of Coal owned by.

Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 596.

Post Office

Surveying Department—Promotion of Mr. Gibson.

Q. Mr. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 28*, 1097.

Women Clerks, Salaries of.

Q. Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 345, 346.

Valuation, Date of Commencing.

Q. Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 29*, 1253.

Dublin Police Bill

c. 1R.* *June 19*, 60.

Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Railway Bill

l. Rep.* *July 3*, 1557.

Duffy, Mr. W. J. [Galway, S.]
  Athenry Labourers Cottages Scheme—Investigation into alleged Mistakes, proposed, *July 2*, 1388.
  Ballyfindon Portion of De Freyne Estate—Progress of Negotiations for Sale of, *June 28*, 1184.
  Benmore Estate, Disposal of Lands, etc., *June 28*, 1183.
  Consumption in Ireland, Measures taken to check, *June 28*, 1104.
  Derrybrien Postman, Pay and Duties of, *June 25*, 587.
  Dunsandle Estate—Case of Mr. J. Duffy, *June 28*, 1119.
  Goodbody Estate—Disposal of, by the Congested Districts Board, *June 28*, 1184.
  Gort Petty Sessions—Case of Mr. Hart, *June 25*, 659.
  Kinvarra Harbour Improvement, Decision as to, *June 25*, 608; *June 28*, 1103.
  Land Purchase, Administration of Acts, etc., Inquiry proposed, *June 28*, 1104.
  Loughrea Police Force, Strength of, *June 25*, 605.
  Magistrates, Irish—Adjudication in Cases of Personal Interest, alleged, *June 28*, 1150.
  Marble Hill, Sale of, etc., *June 28*, 1100.
  Mount Shannon Estate, Grazing Lands, Disposal of, *June 28*, 1185,
  O'Hara Estate Tenantry, Decision as to Memorial from, *June 25*, 605.
  Persse Estate Untenanted Land, Disposal of, *June 28*, 1105.
  St. George's Estate—Case of M. Greally, *June 28*, 1104.
  Wakeley Estate, Sale Proposals for, *June 25*, 612.

Duncan, Mr. C. [Barrow-in-Furness]
  Sparkbrook Small Arms Factory, Conditions of Transfer of, *June 25*, 612.

Duncan, Mr. R. [Lanark, Govan]
  London County Council (Money) Bill, *Com.*, *June 21*, 436.
  Spain—Effect of new Customs Tariff, Progress of Negotiations, etc., *June 25*, 645, 646.

Dungannon
  Post Office, Scale of Pay in.
    Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 19*, 21.

Dungarvan
  Causeway to Cunnigar, Construction of, proposed.
    Q. Mr. O'Shee; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 31.

Dunmanway
  Labourers' Cottages Scheme—Application of M. Shea.
    Q. Mr. Sheehan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 188.

Dunmore East
  Fisheries, Effect of Steam Trawlers on.
    Q. Mr. Power; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 792.

Dunsandle Estate
  Duffy, Mr. J., Case of.
    Q. Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1119, 1120.

Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland) Bill
  c. 1R.* *July 2*, 1436.

Ecclesiastical Commissioners
  Public Houses on Estates of, Conditions of Lease, etc.
    Qs. Mr. H. Roberts; *As.* Mr. C. Hobhouse, *June 27*, 936, 937.

Ecclesiastical Discipline
  Additional Rules under Clergy Discipline Acts, Copy Presented, *June 27*, 918; *June 28*, 1084.
  Report of Royal Commission on.
    Presented, *June 26*, 751; *June 28*, 1083.
    Reason for delay in Presenting.
      Os. Marquess of Ripon, *June 19*, 5; Lord Kinnaird, *June 22*, 480; 484; Marquess of Ripon, 481; Viscount St. Aldwyn, 482.
      Qs. Mr. Fullerton; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 20*, 194.
      Q. Dr. Hazel; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 21*, 353, 354.
      Q. Mr. A. Taylor; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 28*, 1116, 1117.

Edinburgh
  Holyrood Park, replanting, etc., of, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Gulland; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *June 27*, 935.
  Morningside Asylum, Precautions against Escape from—Case of Patan.
    Qs. Mr. Stewart; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *June 21*, 371, 372.
  Post Office Women Clerks, Salaries of.
    Q. Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 345, 346.

Edinburgh Corporation Bill
  l. 2R.* *June 19*, 3.

Education, Board of
  President.—Rt. Hon. A. Birrell.
  Draft Order in Council containing certain Provisions in the Order in Council of March 6th, 1902, Presented, *June 26*, 747, 751.

[*cont.*

Education, Board of—*cont.*
  Library—Preparation of Catalogue proposed.
    Q. Mr. Thomasson; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 29*, 1256.

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Devon, etc.) Bill
  c. 2R.* *July 3*, 1590.

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesteven, etc.) Bill
  l. 3R., *June 25*, 562.
  c. 1R.* *June 26*, 750.
    2R.* *July 3*, 1590.

Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (London No. 1) Bill
  c. 2R.* *July 3*, 1590.

Education, England and Wales
  [*See also names of places.*]
  Annual Grant, Period for paying.
    Q. Sir C. Rasch; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 20*, 162.
  Catholic Elementary Schools in certain Cities, Grants and Rate Aid to.
    Q. Mr. C. J. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *July 2*, 1394.
  Code of Regulations for Public Elementary Schools, with Schedules, Presented, *June 28*, 1083, 1096.
  Diocesan Inspectors, Position of.
    Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 25*, 620.
  Election of School Boards in Urban Areas, Percentage of Votes recorded.
    Q. Sir E. Boyle; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *July 3*, 1605.
  Higher Education, Co-ordination of Powers as to, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Ashley; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 19*, 40.
  Pensions—Years to be assigned to certain Offices—Minute Presented, *June 20*, 146; *June 21*, 298.
  Religious Instruction—Number of Children withdrawn.
    Qs. Mr. H. Beach; *As.* Mr. Lough, *June 28*, 1148.
  Sunday Observance, Explanation of.
    Q. Mr. Healy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *July 2*, 1425.
  Teachers
    Pupil Teachers' Travelling Expenses, Grant for, proposed.
      Q. Mr. Armitage; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 27*, 934, 935.
    Register, Total of Names in Column B.
      Q. Sir W. Anson; *A.* Mr. Lough, *June 21*, 369.
  Training Colleges, Regulations as to Training and Examinations, Presented, *July 2*, 1334, 1373.

Education, England and Wales—*cont.*
  Urban areas, Provided Schools in.
    Q. Sir E. Boyle; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *July 3*, 1605.
  Welsh Intermediate Schools, Regulations as to Inspection of.
    Q. Mr. Bridgeman; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 25*, 655.
  Women, Legislation to authorise Election of, on Local Authorities, proposed.
    Qs. Mr. L. Jones; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 25*, 664, 665.

Education (England and Wales) Bill
  c. Com., *June 19*, 61; *June 20*, 197; *June 25*, 668; *June 26*, 805; *June 27*, 959; *July 2*, 1437; *July 3*, 1642.
  Blackburn Church of England Higher Grade School, Petition from Parents of Children attending.
    Os. Marquess of Londonderry, *June 25*, 583.
  Clause 3
    Appeal under, Provision as to.
      Q. Mr. A. Taylor; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 27*, 957.
    Interpretation of.
      Qs. Mr. Dillon, Mr. Balfour, Major Seely; *As.* Mr. Birrell, Mr. Speaker, *July 3*, 1639–1642.
  Clause 4
    Amendments, Effect of, and Opportunity for discussing.
      Q. Dr. Macnamara; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 25*, 665.
      Qs. Dr. Macnamara; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *July 2*, 1424, 1425.
      Q. Colonel Walker; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *July 2*, 1427.
    Opportunity for discussing.
      Qs. Lord R. Cecil, Mr. A. J. Balfour; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 27*, 957.
      Q. Mr. Cox; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 28*, 1159.
    Provisions of.
      Q. Lord Balcarres; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 28*, 1117.
      Qs. Mr. Bridgeman, Lord Balcarres; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *July 3*, 1629, 1630.
  Clause 5, Amendment to, Effect of, etc.
    Q. Mr. Balfour; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 27*, 957.
  Clause 6, Amendments, Date of Publishing.
    Q. Mr. Rawlinson; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 27*, 919.
    Q. Lord Balcarres; *A.* Mr. Lough, *June 28*, 1147.
  Clause 8, Proposals as to.
    Qs. Mr. Ashley, Mr. Dillon, Lord Balcarres; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *July 2*, 1426, 1427.

[*cont.*

Education (England and Wales) Bill—*cont.*
- Closure, Applying at 10.50 instead of 10.30, proposed.
  - *Q.* Lord R. Cecil; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 25*, 662.
- Committee and Report Stages, Interval between.
  - *Q.* Mr. Talbot; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *July 3*, 1610, 1611.
- Council Schools, Exemption of, from Rates, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. J. Ward; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 19*, 40.
- *Debate in Committee* [Commons], *June 19*, 61; *June 20*, 197; *June 25*, 668; *June 26*, 805; *June 27*, 959; *July 2*, 1437.
  - Charitable Endowments and Trusts
    - Carrying out Terms of Trust as far as possible, proposed, 90–96.
    - "Confiscation" of Trust Property, Alleged, 86, 87.
    - Dependence of, on Grant of 50 per cent. from the State, 84, 85, 87, 89, 116, 117.
    - Educational Trusts, Preservation of Buildings erected for Purposes of, 61–64.
    - Interferences with Purposes of
      - Precedents for, 79, 80, 85, 88, 127, 128, 129.
      - Right of the Government to vary Terms of Trust Deeds, etc., 80–84, 86, 89, 90, 118, 125.
    - Invalidation of Trusts by Trustees encouraged by the Bill, Alleged, 78, 81, 86.
    - Limitation of Breaking of Trusts, proposed, 87 88, 90–96.
  - Church of England
    - Blow aimed at, by the Bill, 125, 126, 857, 858, 864–871, 884–886, 994, 996, 1645, 1656, 1657, 1658, 1659, 1660, 1661, 1662, 1663, 1672, 1701.
    - Educational Work done by, 82, 83, 685, 858, 994, 995, 1477, 1479.
  - Clause II
    - New Sub-section (5), Terms of, 114, 115.
    - Sub-section (b)
      - "House during the time which it is being used by the Local Education Authority as a Public Elementary School," Insertion of words in Line 6, proposed, 71–74.

Education (England and Wales) Bill—*cont.*
- *Debate in Committee—cont.*
  - Clause II—*cont.*
    - Sub-Section (b)—*cont.*
      - Omission of words "or in any way restrict their full control of the Schools," 67–71.
      - "Save as hereinafter provided," Insertion of Words, proposed, 69–71.
    - Sub-section 2, Omission of, proposed, 78–90.
    - Sub-section 3, Omission of, proposed, 103, 104.
  - Clause III, Sub-section I, "If," Omission of, in Line 24, proposed, 197.
  - Clause IV
    - Catholic Schools, Effect on, 677–685, 700–703, 711, 712, 721, 727, 811–819, 829–836, 855, 856, 859, 860, 864, 877–881, 884, 996, 997.
    - Government Amendments, General Effect of, on, 669, 670, 672–677, 688, 806, 842.
    - Government Amendments passed, 1041, 1047–1050, 1053–1056, 1061, 1062.
    - Paragraph (*b*)—"Public School," Omission of words, proposed, 1029–1036.
    - "Shall," Substitution of, for "May," proposed, 669–673, 681–692, 695, 697–699, 702–706, 708–715, 718–723, 726, 730, 807–811, 814–817, 821, 826, 827.
    - Voluntary Character of, 673.
  - Clause V—Government Amendments passed, 1073, 1074.
  - Clause VI
    - Child Labour, Effect on, 1438, 1439, 1445, 1446, 1462, 1463, 1475, 1490, 1503, 1504.
    - Discussion of, not in Order, alleged, 1437.
    - Secularism aimed at by, alleged, 1451–1453, 1458, 1462, 1466, 1469, 1470.
  - Clause VII
    - Secularisation facilitated by, alleged, 1706, 1709.
    - Sub-section (1) Omission of, proposed, 1642–1676.
    - Sub-section (2), Omission of, proposed, 1708–1722.
  - Compulsory Attendance of Children during all School Hours, proposed, 1437–1446, 1455, 1465–1468, 1495, 1496, 1499, 1501.
  - Grant-in-Aid, Allocation of, 696.

[*cont.*

Education (England and Wales) Bill—*cont.*
- *Debate in Committee—cont.*
  - Hour of opening Schools, Proposals, as to, 1446.
  - Popular Control, Demand for, 127, 128, 129, 134.
  - Religious Instruction to be given in all Public Elementary Schools, Provisions as to, 122, 123, 258, 838, 1463, 1500.
    - Abolition of Religious Instruction in State Schools, the only Solution, alleged, 716, 725, 819, 1477, 1493, 1706.
    - Allowing Cowper-Temple Instruction to be given side by side with Denominational Teaching proposed, 959–962.
    - "Anson By-law," Terms of 1442, 1451, 1471, 1472.
    - Appeal to Board of Education in event of Refusal of Local Authority to grant, Provision for, 674, 675, 676, 683, 688, 689, 710, 720, 724, 730, 808, 809, 816, 1053–1056.
    - Attendance at, to be Optional, 1443, 1444, 14 7–1453, 1460–1462, 1467, 1474, 1476, 1478, 1481, 1484–1489, 1494, 1502, 1507–1510, 1515–1518.
    - Ballot to be taken, to ascertain Wishes of Parents, Provisions as to, 676, 683, 690, 717, 724, 726, 827, 839, 965–989, 1013–1014, 1041, 1042.
      - Basis to be Number of Children, and not Number of Parents, 969–973, 1021.
      - Method of taking and form of Question to be put to Parents, 967–973, 975–977.
      - "Parents," Definition of, 972, 988, 989, 1014, 1024.
      - Parents not voting to be regarded as being against Facilities, 975, 976, 978–988, 1011.
      - Provision for ascertaining Number of Parents who did not desire Facilities, 975, 976, 978–988.
    - Children of Parents not desiring Denominational Instruction, School Accommodation for, 1029–1036.
    - Clergy, Responsibility of, 1654, 1667, 1668, 1673.
    - Conscience Clause, Terms, and Alleged Failure of, 1441–1446, 1448, 1449, 1451, 1470, 1471, 1485, 1487, 1488, 1489, 1501.

Education (England and Wales Bill)—*cont.*
- *Debate in Committee—cont.*
  - Religious Instruction—*cont.*
    - Cowper-Temple Religion, Alleged Objections to, 250, 253–256, 264, 267, 812, 820, 838, 840, 841, 844, 865, 868, 1500, 1655, 1656, 1661, 1671.
    - Denominatonal Instruction in hitherto Non-provided Schools, Facilities for, 69, 260–265, 277–284, 837–840, 871–876, 965–989, 993, 1444, 1445, 1456, 1473, 1506.
      - Allowing on every day of the week instead of on two only, proposed, 271–284.
      - Court of Appeal in Cases of Dissatisfaction as to Character of, Provision of, proposed, 226, 230–236.
      - Definition and Limitation of Varieties of Religious Instruction to be provided, proposed, 223–228.
      - "Four-fifths," Objections to, 994, 995, 1003–1008.
        - Roman Catholic Objections to, 677, 685, 700–703, 727, 811–819, 830–836.
      - Granting where the Parents of fifteen Children desire it, proposed, 239–268.
      - "In accordance with Trust, if any, on which the School has been previously held," proposed, 228–236.
      - Local Inquiry as to Wishes of Parents, Provision for, 982–988, 1017, 1021, 1022.
      - Making granting of Facilities compulsory, proposed, 198, 200, 202–220, 669–673, 681–692, 695, 697–699, 702–706, 708–715, 718–723, 726, 730, 807–811, 814–817, 821, 826, 827, 829.
      - "Reasonable Number of Parents," Substitution of, for "Four-fifths," proposed, 990–1008.
      - Right of the Parent to demand Denominational Teaching during School Hours, 126, 266, 672, 718, 1491, 1492.
      - Teachers, *see under that subheading.*

[*cont.*

Education (England and Wales) Bill—*cont.*
- *Debate in Committee—cont.*
  - Religious Instruction—*cont.*
    - Denominational Instruction—*cont.*
      - To be decided by four-fifths of those Parents who actually voted in the Ballot, proposed, 1011–1024.
    - Inclusion of "Religious Observances" in, Question as to, 1709, 1710.
    - Inspectors, Powers of to visit Schools during time allotted to Religious Instruction, 1681–1684.
    - Local Option as to, Objections to Permissive Facilities, etc., 119, 120.
    - Making Attendance at compulsory, proposed, 197–199, 213, 214.
    - Neutrality of the State, 1651.
    - Objections to Religion being taken out of School Hours, 1459, 1460, 1465, 1468, 1469, 1486, 1487, 1488, 1497, 1502 1503, 1507, 1508.
    - Right of Entry, Retention of Principle of, proposed, 248–251, 281–283.
    - Rural Areas, Inclusion of, proposed, 851–886.
    - Special Facilities in hitherto Non-provided Schools, Provisions as to, 114–116, 260–265, 277–284.
    - Stipulation to be made for giving such Christian Teaching as may be given under Section 14 of Act of 1870, proposed, 74–77.
    - Teachers, *see that subheading.*
    - Universal Facilities, Provision of, proposed, 1032.
  - Teachers
    - Allowing Secular Teachers to continue giving Denominational Instruction, proposed, 1642–1676.
    - Cowper-Temple Instruction to be given by, 1653, 1666, 1670, 1701, 1711, 1712.
    - Method of ensuring that Religious Teaching will be given by 1712–1714, 1716–1722.
    - Prohibiting the giving of Undenominational as well as Denominational Instruction, proposed, 1697–1708.
    - Religious Denominational Instruction by, Provisions as to, 1642–1676, 1691–1694, 1711, 1720.

Education (England and Wales) Bill—*cont.*
- *Debate in Committee—cont.*
  - Teachers—*cont.*
    - Religious Denominational, etc.—*cont.*
      - Confining Restrictions to Schools having only one Teacher, proposed, 1673.
      - Local Option, Extension of, to Teachers, proposed, 1689–1694.
      - Opinion of Teachers, 1648, 1649, 1689, 1690, 1692, 1693.
      - Outside Teachers, Source of Supply of, 1650.
      - Secular Teacher to be present during, for purpose of maintaining Discipline, proposed, 1681–1684.
    - Religious Tests for, Abolition of, 1644–1647, 1674, 1675, 1676, 169[illegible], 1713,1715, 1716, 1717, 1718.
  - Voluntary Schools
    - Buildings
      - Local Option as to Acquisition of, by the Local Authorities, 130–134, 198, 199, 200, 215, 216, 219, 723, 724.
      - Terms of Acquisition of, by Local Authorities, 121, 122, 691, 723.
      - Trust Purposes not to be interfered with by Local Authorities, 61–64.
    - Cases of Refusal of Local Authorities to carry out Commands of Board of Education, Method of enforcing—Question of *Mandamus*, 674, 675, 687, 689, 713, 728, 807–810, 822–824, 839.
    - Character of Instruction given in, 1654.
    - Charitable Endowments and Trusts, *see that subheading.*
    - Christian Teaching permissible under Section 14 of Act of 1870, Stipulation as to, 74–77.
    - Contracting-out, Powers as to, 675, 676, 678, 684, 685, 692–695, 699, 704, 706, 707, 708, 711, 715, 717, 721, 722, 729, 734, 735, 810, 816–818, 827–829, 832, 861, 974.
    - Denominational Instruction in hitherto Non-provided Schools, Facilities for, *see under subheading* Religious Instruction.
    - Fees received for use of Buildings for Outside Purposes, Disposal of, 102, 103.

[*cont.*

Education (England and Wales) Bill—*cont.*
Debate in Committee—cont.
Voluntary Schools—*cont.*
Four-fifths Schools, Abolition of Rent Clause as to, proposed, 676, 678, 679, 683, 684, 685, 690, 696, 697, 715, 728, 729, 731, 732, 817.
Interests of Local Authorities in, to be restricted to hours during which Elementary Education is given, proposed, 110–114.
Maintenance of, to be taken over by Local Authorities, 735.
Position of Schools refusing to come to terms with Local Authorities, 201.
Power of Education Board to allow School to continue as a State-aided School, receiving Grant, but not Rate-aid, 674, 675, 692–695, 704, 706, 707, 708, 711, 721, 729, 734, 735, 810, 816–818, 827–829, 861, 974, 1047, 1048.
Provision to enable Local Authorities to come compulsorily to an Agreement with Owners of Schools that had been kept up at the Public Expense, proposed, 119.
Public Money spent on "Private Property," Allegations as to, 124–127.
Revision of Arrangements every Five Years, Provision as to, 731.
"Schoolhouse," Definition of, 73,
Use of Buildings to be granted to Owners two days a week for Purposes other than Education— Omission of Words, proposed, 101–103.
Expenses, Authorisation of Payment of, out of Moneys provided by Parliament.
Resolution [Mr. Lough], *June 27*, 1079—Reported *July 3*, 1733.
Financial Proposals—Rules, Date of publishing.
Q. Mr. Rawlinson; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 27*, 919.
Government Amendments, Date of Circulating, etc.
Qs. Sir W. Anson, Mr. A. J. Balfour; *As.* Mr. Birrell, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 20*, 173.
Illiterate Petitioners against.
Q. Mr. A. L. Stanley; *A.* Mr. H. J. Wilson, *June 28*, 1148, 1149.
Memorandum of Enactments to be repealed, Date of tabling.
Q. Mr. S. Hill; *A.* Mr. Lough, *June 28*, 1147.

Education (England and Wales) Bill—*cont.*
Religious Instruction, Provisions as to.
Q. Lord R. Cecil; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 25*, 656, 657.
Reprint of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *July 3*, 1639.
School Maintenance and Repair, Provision for—"Other Payment," Definition of in Amendment as to Rent.
Qs. Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *July 3*, 1629.
Teachers' Register, Abolition of—Dropping Clause 36, proposed.
Q. Sir E. Sassoon; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 26*, 756, 757.
Q. Mr. Smeaton; *A.* Mr. Lough, *June 26*, 777, 778.
Voluntary Schools
Commission, Proposals as to.
Qs. Mr. H. Beach; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman; *June 28*, 1158, 1159; *July 2*, 1434.
Contracting out—Provisions as to Efficiency and Management.
Q. Dr. Macnamara; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 27*, 933.
Qs. Dr. Macnamara, Lord Balcarres, Lord R. Cecil, Sir E. Carson; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *June 27*, 933, 934.
Liability for Mortgages, etc.
Q. Sir E. Carson; *A.* Mr. Lough, *June 28*, 1147, 1148.
Maintenance, and Wear and Tear to Furniture, Apportionment of Cost of.
Q. Mr. Bridgeman; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 25*, 656.
Women as Education Authorities, Amendment Authorising, proposed.
Qs. Mr. L. Jones; *As.* Mr. Lough, *June 21*, 369, 370.

Education, Ireland
(*See also names of places.*)
Bi-lingual Programme, Proposals as to.
Q. Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1156.
Bi-lingual Schools, Inspection of.
Qs. Mr. Boland; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 792, 793.
Consultative Committee Report, Tabling, proposed.
Qs. Mr. W. Long; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 150; *June 28*, 1102.
Intermediate Education Board
Minutes of, Publication of, proposed.
Qs. Mr. J. Redmond, *July 2*, 1541; Mr. J. Campbell, 1542, 1543; Mr. Bryce, 1544, 1545.
Parliamentary Control over, etc.
Qs. Mr. T. O'Donnell, Mr. J. Redmond, Mr. Sloan, Mr. MacNeill; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 789, 790.
Qs. Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27*, 939.

[*cont.*

Education, Ireland—*cont.*
Intermediate Education Board—*cont.*
Rules 1906–7
Correspondence, Tabling proposed. *Q.* Mr. Long; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1103.
Date of Presenting. *Q.* Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 601, 602.
Proposals as to. *Qs.* Mr. T. O'Donnell, Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. Dillon, Mr. J. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 178–182.
Q. Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 605, 606.
Resolution of House of Commons regarding, alleged Refusal of the Board to carry out. *Os.* Mr. T. O'Donnell, *July 2*, 1539, 1540, 1552; Mr. J. Redmond, 1541, 1542; Mr. J. Campbell, 1543, 1552. Mr. Bryce, 1543; Mr. Dillon, 1547, 1548, 1552; Mr. T. W. Russell, 1548; Mr. Gordon, 1548, 1549; Mr. Morton, 1549; Mr. T. M. Healy, 1549, 1550; Mr. T. P. O'Connor, 1551; Mr. W. Redmond, 1553.
Rules and Programme of Examination (1907), Presented, *June 22*, 469, 496.
Statement in Dublin Newspaper, etc. *Q.* Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 148.
Withdrawal of, and Substitution of amended Rules, proposed. *Os.* Mr. T. O'Donnell, *July 2*, 1539, 1540; Mr. Bryce, 1545–1547, 1551; Mr. Dodd, 1550, 1551.
Irish Language *see that title.*
King's Scholars, Books Recommended to, in Programme for Examinations. *Q.* Mr. T. M. Healy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1386, 1387.
National School Teachers
Capitation Grants, Proposals as to. *Q.* Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 184.
Dismissals, etc. (1896–1905). *Q.* Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 29*, 1252, 1254.
Irish Teachers leaving for Great Britain since 1900, Number and Cost of, etc. *Q.* Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 625, 626.

Education, Ireland—*cont.*
National School Teachers—*cont.*
Position of Teachers entering in 1900. *Q.* Mr. E. Barry; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 44, 45.
Salaries, Period for Paying. *Q.* Mr. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1105.
Protestant National Teachers Union,
Reason for refusing to receive Deputation from. *Q.* Mr. T. L. Corbett; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1385.
School Building Plans and Grants, Decision as to. *Q.* Mr. Farrell; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 19*, 25.
Q. Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 21*, 382, 383.
Q. Mr. J. Roche; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1102.
Six Standard System, Provision for Teaching in small Schools. *Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 3*, 1605.
Starkie, Dr., Services of *Q.* Mr. McHugh; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1099.

Education of Defective Children (Scotland) Bill
l. Com. and *Rep.* June 25*, 564.
Report from Standing Committee, *June 26*, 748.
3R.* *June 28*, 1084.

Education, Scotland
Vice-President of the Council—Rt. Hon. J. Sinclair.
See also names of places.
Legislative proposals as to. *Q.* Mr. M. Ferguson; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *July 3*, 1631.
Teachers
Pensions, supplementing by certain public Monies, proposed. *Q.* Mr. Crombie; Mr. J. C. Wason; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *June 21*, 372, 373.
Pupil Teachers, Grant for. *Q.* Mr. Gulland; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *June 26*, 778, 779.

Edwards, Mr. A. C. [Denbigh District]
Transvaal, Chinese Labour Repatriation Notification—use of "Tremble and Obey"; *June 25*, 638; *June 28*, 1129.
Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill, 2R., *June 26*, 902.

Egypt
British Officers, Attack on, Information as to. *Qs.* Mr. Weir; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *June 21*, 342, 343.
Q. Mr. Dillon; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *June 21*, 361.

[*cont*

Egypt—*cont.*
British Officers—*cont.*
Evidence given at Trial, tabling of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Belloc; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *July 3,* 1619.
Sentence on Egyptians, Inquiry into proposed.
Qs. Mr. Dillon; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 27,* 956.
Qs. Mr. Dillon; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *June 28,* 1111.
Qs. Mr. Dillon, Mr. Paul, Mr. Byles; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *June 28,* 1133–1135.
Qs. Mr. Reddy, Mr. Dillon, Mr. MacNeill, Mr. Pickersgill, Mr. J. M. Robertson, Mr. J. D. White; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *July 2,* 1411–1414.
Turco-Egyptian Frontier delimitation, Progress made with.
Q. Mr. Ashley; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *July 3,* 1619.

Ejectment Orders
Depositing Goods in Street, alleged illegality of.
Q. Mr. Pickersgill; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 21,* 363, 364.
Uniform time for, proposed.
Q. Mr. O'Grady; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 21,* 363.

Elections (Meetings in Schoolrooms) Bill
c. 1R.* *June 29,* 1257.

Electric Lighting Acts, 1882 to 1902
Proceedings of Board of Trade under—Report Presented, *June 28,* 1083, 1095.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders
Applications to and Proceedings of Board of Trade (1896–1905), Return ordered, *July 2,* 1374.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill
l. Royal Assent, *June 22,* 465.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill
l. Royal Assent, *June 22,* 465.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill
l. Com. June 25,* 562.
Rep. June 26,* 747.
3R.* *June 28,* 1082.
c. 1R.* *June 29,* 1250.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill
l. Report from Select Committee, *June 29,* 1237.
Com. July 3,* 1559.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill
l. 1R.* *June 19,* 4.
2R.* *June 26,* 746.
Com. and *Rep.* June 28,* 1082.
3R.* *June 29,* 1238.

Electric Lighting Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill
l. 1R.* *June 19,* 4.
2R.* *June 26,* 746.
Com. and *Rep.* June 28,* 1082.
3R.* *June 29,* 1238.

Elgin and Kincardine, Earl of—*Secretary of State for the Colonies.*
Transvaal—Labour for the Mines.
Re-introduction of indiscriminate Recruiting, Allegations as to, *June 29,* 1244–1247.
Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Recruiting System of, *June 29,* 1245, 1246.

Ellenborough, Lord
Greenwich Observatory, Erection of London County Council Power Station near, Danger to Instruments, Shipping, etc., *June 21,* 320–326, 337.
Russia, visit of British Fleet to, during Manœuvres, *July 2,* 1364.

Ellis, Rt. Hon. J. E.—*Under-Secretary for India* [Nottingham, Rushcliffe]
China and the Opium Trade—Parliamentary Proposals for dealing with Question, *June 19,* 36.
Education Service—Appointment of Messrs. E. Candler, J. A. Chapman, and W. Horn, *June 26,* 767.

Emigration and Immigration
Ireland, Emigration from—Cause of Increase, etc.
Q. Mr. Dolan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20,* 192.

Emmott, Mr. A. [Oldham]
Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill, *Con., June 19,* 143.
Motion for Third Reading, Opposition to, *June 25,* 743.
Hammersmith, City, and North East London Railway Bill—*Motion* for Suspension of Proceedings on, until next Session, *July 3,* 1591, 1593.
Local Government Provisional Order (No. 10) Bill, 2R., *July 2,* 1533.

Enniskillen
Post Office Learner, Pay of.
Q. Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 25,* 619.

Epsom and Ewell Gas Bill
l. Report from Select Committee, *June 29,* 1237.
3R.* *July 3,* 1558.

Erne, Lough
- Fishery Laws, Enforcement of, Number of Prosecutions, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 27.

Erse
- *See* Irish Language.

Esmonde, Sir T. G. [Wexford, N.]
- Consumption in Ireland, Measures taken to check, *June 25*, 593.
- Development Grant—Disposal of Unexpended Balances of Votes, etc., *June 26*, 796, 797.
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 25*, 713–715; *June 26*, 855–857; *June 27*, 988, 1011; *July 2*; 1493, 1494.
- Fisheries,—Date of Presenting Return as to Boats, *June 26*, 782.
- Great Seal of Ireland, Design of, *June 27*, 940.
- Historical Manuscripts—Discussion of Question of Publication, proposed, *June 25*, 593.
- Land Purchase Acts, Administration of—Commission of Inquiry into, proposed, *June 28*, 1215.
- Marine Works Act, Proposals as to Extension of Operations of, *June 26*, 782.
- Prison Warders, Grievances of, *July 3*, 1608.

Essex, Mr. R. W. [Gloucestershire, Cirencester]
- Transvaal, Chinese Labourers—Repatriation, Translation of Notification into Chinese, *June 27*, 916.

Estate Duties
- Principal Probate Registry, Work of.
  - *Q.* Mr. Sears; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *June 27*, 928, 929.
- System of collecting, Alleged Leakages in, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. Sears; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *June 27*, 929.

Evans, Mr. S. T. [Glamorgan, Mid.]
- Divisions—Rule as to Tellers proceeding immediately to Doors of Lobbies, *June 20*, 289.
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 20*, 213, 248–250, 255, 289; *June 27*, 977; *July 2*, 1440.

Evans-Gordon, Maj. Sir W. [Tower Hamlets, Stepney]
- Anarchist Newspaper Comments on Madrid Outrage, Prosecution of Persons responsible for, etc., *June 25*, 647, 650; *July 2*, 1416.
- Germany—Police Power to expel Aliens, etc., *June 25*, 645.
- Jewish Territorial Society, Colonisation Scheme of, *June 25*, 642.

Evans-Gordon, Maj. Sir W.—*cont.*
- Russian Anti-Semitic Disturbances—British Government Representations proposed, *June 26*, 768; *July 2*, 1432.

Everett, Mr. R. L. [Suffolk, Woodbridge]
- Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 29*, 1290.
- Motor Commission Report, Date of Presenting, *July 2*, 1423.

Evictions
- *See under* Ireland, *and also names of places and estates.*

Expiring Laws Continuance Bill
- Acts to be included in.
  - *Q.* Mr. O'Mara; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 27*, 954, 955.

Explosions
- Blackbeck Gunpowder Factory, at—Report as to, Presented, *June 25*, 563, 585.

Explosives
- Annual Report of Inspectors, Presented, *June 28*, 1084, 1095.

Faber, Mr. G. D. [York]
- Land Tenure Bill, *Com.*, *June 22*, 530; *June 29*, 1276, 1277.

Factories and Workshops
- Accidents, Appliances for Prevention of—Establishment of Museum, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. Alden; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *July 3*, 1625.
- Annual Report and Statistics Presented, *June 25*, 563, 585.
- Dangerous Trades—Statement as to, Presented, *June 25*, 563, 585.
- Domestic Workshops used as Sleeping Places, Number and Regulation of.
  - *Q.* Mr. A. Henderson; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 21*, 365.
- Home Work—Administration of Provisions of Act of 1901, by Local Authorities—Return Presented, *June 25*, 585.

Farrell, Mr. J. P. [Longford, N.]
- Cusack Estate, Sale Proposals for, *July 2*, 1389.
- Dopping Estate—Reinstatement Claims of J. Smythe and P. Victory, *June 28*, 1106, 1107.
- Drainage Commission Report, Date of Presenting, *July 3*, 1635.
- Education
  - National School Teachers' Salaries, Period for paying, *June 28*, 1105.
  - School Building Plans, Decision as to, *June 19*, 25.
- Granard Estate Bog, Disposal of, *July 2*, 1389.
- Land Purchase
  - Admisistration of Acts—Commission of Inquiry into, *June 28*, 1215, 1216.

[*cont.*

Farrell, Mr. J. P.—*cont.*
- Land Purchase—*cont.*
  - Guarantee Deposits under Ashbourne Act, Rules as to, *June 19,* 25.
  - Moriarty, Mr. H., Constabulary Service of, Reason for Transfer, etc., *June 28,* 1101.
- O'Grady Estate Sale Negotiations, *June 19,* 29.
- Prisoners, Petitions for Release of—Case of J. McCann, *June 28,* 1149, 1150
- Roberts Estate, Sale of, etc., *June 20,* 150.

Faulkner Estate
- Rents, Alleged Pressure for Payment of.
  - *Q.* Mr. Hammond; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20,* 153.

Featherston-Whitney Estate
- Inspection, Date of.
  - *Q.* Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27,* 938.

Fell, Mr. A. [Great Yarmouth]
- Aliens Act
  - Revision of Regulations under, proposed, *June 21,* 365.
  - Want of Nationality a ground for refusing Admission, proposed, *June 21,* 364.
- Post Office—Foreign Postcards written on Address side, Surcharges for, *June 21,* 453.
- Transvaal Chinese Labour—Cason Mine Prosecution, Information as to, *June 28,* 1128.

Fenwick, Mr. C. [Northumberland, Wansbeck]
- Coast Erosion Commission, Names of, *July 2,* 1435.

Ferguson, Mr. R. C. M. [Leith Burghs]
- Education, Legislative Proposals as to, *July 3,* 1631.
- Land Tenure Bill, *Con., June 22,* 500, 503, 514; *June 29,* 1275, 1291, 1298.
- Leith, South—Manse Repairs Assessment Case, *June 26,* 779.
- Telegraph Underground Wires to Scotland, Progress made with laying of, *June 21,* 452.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act
- Complaints and Prosecutions under, during Last Five Years—Return proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. A. Cross; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *June 21,* 347.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill
- Proposals as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Heaton-Armstrong; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 27,* 956.

Fertilisers, etc., Bill—*cont.*
- Whip issued to Members by Agriculture Board.
  - *Qs.* Mr. A. Cross, Mr. Healy, Mr. A. J. Balfour; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *July* 1637–1639.

Fetherstonhaugh, Mr. G. [Fermanagh, N.]
- Bacon, American, Inspection on Importation into Ireland, etc., *June 28,* 1153.
- Breweries—Rateable Value and Income Tax, *June 29,* 1253.
- Crookenden and Casey Estate—Case of J. Nixon, *June 28,* 1153.
- Cules School, Decision as to rebuilding, *June 28,* 1117.
- Dublin Valuation, Date of commencing, *June 29,* 1253.
- Erne, Lough—Enforcement of Fishery Laws, *June 19,* 27.

Ffrench, Mr. P. [Wexford, S.]
- Consumption in Ireland, Measures taken to check, *June 26,* 761.
- Labourers' Cottages—Rate of Interest on Loans, *June 21,* 381.
- Rosslare Harbour Buoys, Improvement of, proposed, *June 21,* 385.
- Wexford—Arbitration Awards to J. Clancy and W. Francis, *July 2,* 1387.

Ffrench, Miss K., Estate of
- Sale Proposals for.
  - *Q.* Mr. J. Roche; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27,* 945.

Field, Mr. W. [Dublin, St. Patrick]
- Belfast
  - Harbour Board, Constitution of, and Control over, *June 26,* 760.
  - Meat supplied to Troops in, *June 25,* 612.
- Civil Service—Transfer of Irish Clerks to Dublin, *June 19,* 23.
- Education—Six Standard System, Provision for teaching in small Schools, *July 3,* 1605.
- Fish, Irish cured, Brand for, proposed, *July 3,* 1606.
- Gambling
  - Futures, in—Proposals as to British Delegates to Italian Congress, *June 25,* 629.
  - Shares, etc., Restrictions on bull and bear Operations, proposed, *June 25,* 629.
- Government Departments, promotion System in, *June 19, 27,* 28.
- Insurance Companies—Proposals for Protection of Policy Holders; *June 25,* 615; *June 26,* 755; *June 27,* 917.

[*cont.*

Field, Mr. W.—*cont.*
- Irish Valuation System—assimilating to that of England proposed, *June 21*, 350.
- Local Government Provisional Order (No. 10) Bill, 2R., *July 2*, 1531.
- Members of Parliament, Free Postage and Travelling Passes for, proposed, *July 3*, 1610.
- Mortgages on Irish Land held by British Companies, calling for information as to, proposed, *June 27*, 917.
- Population and Imperial Taxation in Ireland in 1851 and 1906–7, *June 25*, 624.
- Post Office Savings Bank
  - Accounts on which no transactions have taken place for a number of years, *July 3*, 1599.
  - Index of Depositors, proposed, *July 3*, 1600.
  - Unclaimed balances, List of, proposed, *July 3*, 1599.
- Tin Trade, Gambling in—effect on British Trade, etc., *July 2*, 1392.
- Transvaal War Contribution Loan, Enforcement of Payment of, proposed, *July 2*, 1399.
- War Office Meat Contracts, American Firms holding, *June 21*, 352.

Finance Bill
- *l.* 2R., *June 21*, 299.
- 3R.* *June 21*, 319.
- *l.* Royal Assent, *June 22*, 465.

Finlay Estate
- Purchase Application of H. Heavy, decision as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. V. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 761, 762.

First Commissioner of Works
- *Rt. Hon. L. Harcourt.*

First Lord of the Admiralty
- *Lord Tweedmouth.*

First Lord of the Treasury
- Rt. Hon. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.

Fisheries
- Cornish Crabbers, Protection of Interests of.
  - *Q.* Mr. H. Morgan; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *June 25*, 654, 655.
- Ireland
  - Boats—Date of Presenting Return.
    - *Q.* Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *June 26*, 782.
  - Brand for Cured Fish, proposed.
    - *Q.* Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27*, 949, 950.
    - *Q.* Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 3*, 1606.

Fisheries—*cont.*
- Ireland—*cont.*
  - Development of, by Congested Districts Board.
    - *Os.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1201, 1202.
- Lancashire and Western Sea Fisheries Districts, union of—Order for variation of previous Order, Presented, *June 25* 564, 585.
- North Sea, *see under* North Sea.
- Protection of Fishing Grounds, *see under* Trawling.
- Scotland
  - Annual Report, Presented, *June 26*, 747, 751.
  - Salmon Fisheries—Annual Report, Presented, *June 26*, 747, 751.
- Trawling, *see that title.*

Fitzmaurice, Lord—*Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs.*
- Baghdad Railway, Turkish Guarantee to Germany—British Policy, etc., *July 2*, 1350, 1351.
- Congo Free State, Belgian Administration, Decrees and Correspondence relating to, etc., *July 3*, 1575–1582.
- Macedonia
  - Budget Deficiency, proposals for meeting, *July 2*, 1345, 1347.
  - Reform Schemes, progress made with, *July 2*, 1346, 1351.
- Russia—Visit of British Fleet during Manœuvres, *July 2*, 1365.
- Servia, Conditions of renewing Diplomatic Relations with, *June 22*, 490, 491.
- Turkey—Customs Tariff, proposed increase in
  - British Trade, Effect on, *July 2*, 1344, 1345.
  - Conditions of British Government Sanction, *July 2*, 1346, 1347, 1349, 1354.
  - Machinery for Carrying out—Proposals as to Ottoman Debt Commission, *July 2*, 1348.
  - Papers relating to—Tabling, proposed, *July 2*, 1360.
  - Progress of Negotiations, *July 2*, 1349, 1350.

Fitzwilliam Estate
- Sale of—Proceedings against Tenants for Non-payment of Interest.
  - *Qs.* Mr. J. O'Connor; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 21*, 379; *June 25*, 597, 598.

Flavin, Mr. M. J. [Kerry, N.]
Artisans' Wages, Smallness of, *June 26*, 783.
Labourers Acts
  Loans, Interest charged on, *June 20*, 193.
  Returns, Date of circulating, *June 28*, 1156.

Flynn, Mr. J. C. [Cork, N.]
Cecilstown—Fair Rent Appeal Case of Mr. J. O'Flynn, *June 19*, 43.
Cork Magistracy, Religion of, *June 26*, 781.
Grant Estate—Reinstatement Claim of J. Riordan, *June 20*, 149.
Londonderry Election—Assault case McCullough *v.* Foster, *June 25*, 608.
Longfield Estate—Reinstatement of D. Lehane, *June 20*, 177.
Motor Omnibus Traffic, Regulation of, *July 3*, 1624, 1625.
New York Mutual Reserve Company—Reason for Withdrawal of English Deposit, *July 3*, 1327.
Newman Estate—Case of T. O'Callaghan, *June 20*, 178.
Post Office Promotion System—Cases of Gibson and Magennis, *June 28*, 1097.
Russian Anti-Semitic Outrages, British Representations as to, proposed, *June 28*, 1132.
Trade Statistics, Irish, Decision as to, *June 20*, 194.

Folkestone and District Electricity Supply Bill
c. 2R.* *June 27*, 913.

Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways (No. 2) Bill
l. Report from Select Committee, *June 19*, 2.
  3R.* *June 22*, 466.
c. 1R.* *June 25*, 583.

Food
Canned Foodstuff, *see that title.*

Foreign Office
Secretary of State—Rt. Hon. Sir E. Grey.
Under-Secretary—Lord Fitzmaurice.

Forestry
Progress made with Schemes, etc.
  Q. Mr. H. Roberts; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *June 20*, 160.

Forfar Corporation Water Order Bill
l. 3R.* *June 22*, 468.

Forster, Mr. H. W. [Kent, Sevenoaks]
Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill—Instruction to Committee, *June 26*, 902, 903.

Foster, Sir B. W. [Derbyshire, Ilkeston]
Holme Lacy—Proposals as to Prynces Charity, *June 26*, 756.

Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir H. H.—*Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster* [Wolverhampton, E.]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 27*, 986-988.
Parliamentary Procedure Select Committee, Date of next Meeting of, *June 20*, 158.

France
Trade Reports Presented, *June 25*, 563; *June 28*, 1083.

Fullerton, Mr. H. [Cumberland, Egremont]
Ecclesiastical Discipline Commission Report, Date of Presenting, *June 20*, 194.
Lord Chancellor of Ireland, Reduction of Salary of, proposed, *June 20*, 191, 192.
Millom, Telephone Extension to, proposed, *June 25*, 651.

Galway
Distance in Nautical Miles from certain places.
  Q. Mr. C. Devlin; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *July 3*, 1595, 1596.

Gambling in Futures, etc.
Italian Congress—Proposals as to British Delegates.
  Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 25*, 629
Shares, etc.—Restrictions on bull and bear Operations, proposed.
  Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 25*, 629.

Gardner, Mr. E. [Berks., Wokingham]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 27*, 1021.
Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 29*, 1258, 1288, 1289.

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill
c. Lords' Amendts., *Con.** *June 21*, 339.

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Bill
l. *Com.** *June 25*, 561.
  *Rep.** *June 26*, 747.
  3R.* *June 28*, 1082.
c. 1R.* *June 29*, 1250.

Gas Orders Confirmation (No. 2) Bill
l. *Com.** *June 25*, 561.
  *Rep.** *June 26*, 747.
  3R.* *June 28*, 1082.
c. 1R.* *June 29*, 1250.

Gas and Water Orders Confirmation Bill
l. *Com.** *June 25*, 561.
  *Rep.** *June 26*, 747.
  3R.* *June 28*, 1082.
c. 1R.* *June 29*, 1250.

Germany
Aliens, Powers of Police to Expel, etc.
Q. Sir W. Evans Gordon; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *June 25*, 645.
Naval Shipbuilding Programme.
Q. Mr. Beauchamp; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *June 20*, 163, 164.
Qs. Mr. Ridsdale, Mr. Cowan; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, *July 2*, 1400, 1401.
Prussia, Alleged Expulsion of Alien Cigarette Makers from.
Q. Mr. Pickersgill; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 20*, 171.
Trade Reports Presented, *June 28*, 1083.

Gethin Estate
McLoughlin, Mr., Case of.
Q. Mr. McHugh; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27*, 949.

Gibbs, Mr. G. A. [Bristol, W.]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 27*, 1006–1008.
Lighting Royal Commission, Constitution of, *July 2*, 1420.
London Defences, Proposals as to Disposing of, *June 28*, 1110.
Transvaal, Chinese Labourers — Charges against Mr. Jamieson, *July 2*, 1406.

Gilbert and Ellice Islands
Resident Commissioner, Charges against—Tabling Report, proposed.
Q. Mr. L. Williams; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 25*, 642, 643.

Gilfach Goch
Caradoc Mine Disaster—Accuracy of Plan of Workings, etc.
Q. Colonel Herbert; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *July 2*, 1418.

Ginnell, Mr. L. [Westmeath, N.]
Aghanlish—Decision as to McGlone's Holding, *June 20*, 147; *June 25*, 589.
Agriculture Department Schemes, Local Contributions to—Date of Presenting Return, *June 21*, 375.
Featherston-Whitney Estate, Date of Inspecting, *June 27*, 938.
Killucan late Postmaster, alleged Distribution of Tracts, etc., by, *June 21*, 386.
Land, Untenanted—Date of Presenting Return, etc., *June 21*, 376.
Land Commission
Judicial Commissioner, Proposals as to, *June 28*, 1152.
Thompson, Mr., Qualifications of, Decision in Case of J. Casey, etc., *June 27*, 937, 938.
Land Purchase
Evasion of Acts by Improper Sale, alleged, *June 28*, 1108.
Holdings to which Acts do not apply, alleged Sale of, *June 21*, 373.

Ginnell, Mr. L.—*cont.*
Land Purchase—*cont.*
Inspectors—Date of Presenting Return, *June 27*, 940.
Tenants' Improvements, Protection of, etc., *June 20*, 175, 182–184; *June 27*, 939.
MacDonnell, Sir A., Duties, etc., of, *June 28*, 1151.
Malone, Colonel, Sale Proposals for Estate of, *June 27*, 937.
Royal Canal Board, Duties, etc., of, *June 28*, 1151, 1152.

Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. J.—*Secretary of State for the Home Department* [Leeds, W.]
Aliens Act
Regulations, Revision of, proposed, *June 21*, 365.
Want of Nationality a ground for refusing Admission, proposed, *June 21*, 365.
Anarchist Newspaper Comments on Madrid Outrage—Prosecution of Responsible Persons, etc., *June 25*, 647, 650; *July 2*, 1417.
Ascot Police Force, Strength and Cost of, *June 28*, 1139.
Brixton Prison Addition—Wages of Carpenters, *June 26*, 770.
Cab Driver (badge 16,872), Reason for Refusal of renewing Licence to, *June 25*, 617.
Cement Works, Sanitation of, etc., *June 28*, 1140.
Channel Islands—Blasting Accidents and Inquiries thereon during past Five Years, *June 25*, 616.
Coach-making Trade, Lead-poisoning in, *June 28*, 1140.
"Courier" Wreck Inquiry, Result of, *June 19*, 38.
Criminal Lunatics, Procedure in Discharging, *June 27*, 930.
Criminal Offenders, System of Probation Guardianship of, *June 25*, 649.
Defaulting Solicitors—Allusion to Case as Rex *v.*—in Return, *June 28*, 1139.
Ecclesiastical Discipline Commission Report, Date of Circulating, *June 28*, 1117.
Ejectment Orders
Depositing Goods in Street, alleged Legality of, *June 21*, 364.
Uniform Time for, proposed, *June 21*, 363.
Factories and Workshops
Accidents, Prevention of—Museum for Exhibition of Appliances, proposed, *July 3*, 1625.
Domestic Workshops used as sleeping Places, Number and Regulation of, *June 21*, 365.

[*cont.*

Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. J.—*cont.*
  Germany—Alleged Expulsion of Alien Cigarette Makers from Prussia, *June 20*, 171.
  Gilfach Goch—Caradoc Mine Disaster, Accuracy of Plan of Workings, etc., *July 2*, 1418.
  Juries, System of calling for Service on, *June 25*, 647.
  Leicester Food Adulteration Prosecutions—Difference in Fines imposed, etc., *June 28*, 1137.
  Mines, Welsh, Inspection of—Qualifications of Mr. Atkinson, etc., *June 26*, 771–773.
  Motors
    Accidents from, in London Area during May, *June 25*, 647.
    Omnibuses—Regulations as to Weight Size, etc., *July 3*, 1596.
    Traffic, Proposals for Regulating, *June 25*, 648 ; *July 3*, 1624, 1625.
  Patent Office Report (1905), Statement made in, *June 21*, 468.
  Penal Servitude Acts, Licences under—Procedure in Prosecutions for Failure to Report, *June 20*, 172.
  Poisons and Pharmacy Bill, Referring to Select Committee, proposed, *June 27*, 916.
  Police, Metropolitan—Weekly Day of Rest, proposed, *June 21*, 364.
  Prisons, Flogging in (1904–5 and 1905–6), *June 25*, 649.
  Scathwaite Tarn Waterworks, Cause of Explosion at, *June 21*, 467.
  Trading Stamps, Prohibition of Use of, etc., *June 19*, 37.
  Vaccination Exemption Certificates, Procedure in Granting, *July 2*, 1416.
  Vivisection Experiments
    Increase in Number of, *June 28*, 1137, 1138.
    Returns, Expediting Publication of, proposed, *June 20*, 170.
    University College Porter's Dog, alleged Vivisection of, *July 2*, 1417.
  Watt, H., Case of—Provision of Funds for Emigration of Shuttle, *July 2*, 1378.
  Women's Suffrage Disturbance in Cavendish Square—Sentence on Miss Billington, etc., *June 21*, 366, 367, 462 ; *June 25*, 648.
  Workmen's Compensation Bill
    Domestic Servants, Definition of, *June 25*, 588.
    Insurance, State Scheme for, proposed, *June 20*, 171.

Glamorgan
  Education Authority, alleged Attempt of, to utilise Labour Certificate as Test of School Efficiency
    Q. Lord Balcarres ; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 20*, 173.

Glasgow
  Post Office Medical Officer, Proposals as to.
    Qs. Mr. Cleland, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 19*, 39.
    Qs. Mr. Cleland, Mr. Lamont, Mr. Watt ; *As.* Mr. Buxton, *June 28*, 1145, 1146.
    Female, Appointment of.
    Q. Mr. Watt ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 28*, 1098.

Glasgow & South Western Railway Order Confirmation Bill
  l. 1R.* *June 26*, 746.

Glasnevin
  Model Farm, Public Right of Access to.
    Q. Mr. Hayden ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 3*, 1633, 1634.

Glebe Loans Act, 1870
  Amount issued under, etc.
    Q. Mr. O'Mara ; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 19*, 24.

Glenbeigh Estate
  Sale Negotiations, Progress of.
    Os. Mr. Boland, *June 28*, 1214.

Glendinning, Mr. R. [Antrim, N.]
  Rathlin Island Fishing, Damage to, by Steam Trawlers, *July 2*, 1399.

Glin, Knight of
  Reinstatements on Estate of.
    Q. Mr. O'Shaughnessy ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 191.

Gloucestershire
  Inclosures of Common Land, Particulars of—Return Ordered, *June 19*, 21.

Gooch, Mr. G. P. [Bath]
  Transvaal Chinese Labour — Translation of Repatriation Notification, *June 20*, 167 ; *June 25*, 637.

Goodbody Estate
  Disposal of, by the Congested Districts Board.
    Os. Mr. Duffy, *June 28*, 1184.

Gordon, Mr. J. [Londonderry, S.]
  Great Northern (Ireland) and Midland Railways Bill—Instruction to Committee, *July 3*, 1739–1744.
  Intermediate Board Rules for 1906-7, Resolution of House of Commons as to, Action of the Board, *July 2*, 1548, 1549.

Gort

Petty Sessions—Case of Mr. Hart.
Q. Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *June 25*, 659, 660.

Goschen, Viscount

Army and Navy Expenditure, Possibility of Effecting Reduction in, *June 21*, 312.

Finance Bill, 2R., *June 21*, 311, 312.

Greenwich Observatory, Erection of London County Council Power Station near—Safeguarding against Injury to Instruments, etc., *June 21*, 328, 329.

Government Contracts

Fair Wages Clause, Revision of, proposed.
Q. Mr. O'Grady; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *July 2*, 1434, 1435.

Waygood & Co., Messrs., Conditions of Employment with.
Q. Mr. O'Grady; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *June 21*, 370.

Government Departments

Promotion System in.
Qs. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 27, 28.

Government Laboratory

Report (1905–6) Presented, *June 19*, 4, 21.

Granard, Earl

Merchant Shipping.

Captains, Salaries of, Powers of making Agreements as to, etc., *June 25*, 577.

Officers, Certificates granted to—Practice in New Zealand and Canada, *July 2*, 1336, 1337.

Rafts towed across the Pacific, Danger to Shipping from, *July 2*, 1337.

Granard Estate

Bog, Disposal of.
Q. Mr. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1389.

Grant Estate

Reinstatement Claim of J. Riordan.
Q. Mr. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 149, 150.

Graves, Lord

Representative Peer for Ireland, Claim to Vote, etc., *July 2*, 1333; *July 3*, 1557.

Great Central and Lancashire, Derbyshire and East Coast Railways Bill

c. Rep. June 22*, 494.
Con. July 3*, 1590.

Great North of Scotland Railway Order Confirmation Bill

l. Royal Assent, *June 22*, 465.

Great Northern (Ireland) and Midland Railways Bill

c. 2R.* *July 3*, 1733.

Instruction to Committee, *July 3*, 1733, 1739, 1751.

Great Northern Railway Bill

c. Con., June 25, 737.
3R. *July 2*, 1371.
l. 1R.* *July 2*, 1334.

Motion that Standing Orders 223 and 243 be suspended, and Bill read a third time, Opposed.
Os. Mr. Mooney, Mr. Emmott, Mr. Morton, Mr. Speaker, *June 25*, 743.

Third Class Sleeping Carriages, Provision of—Representations to Railway Company, proposed.
Os. Mr. Morton, *June 25*, 737; Mr. Weir, 738; Mr. Kearley, 739.

Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill

c. Con., June 19, 139.

Objections to taking after 11 p.m.—Adjournment of Debate, proposed.
Os. Mr. Macveagh, *June 19*, 140; Mr. K. Hardie, 141; Sir F. Banbury, 141; Mr. Dalziel, 141; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 142; Mr. Asquith, 142; Mr. C. Hay, 142; Mr. Emmott, 143; Mr. T. W. Russell, 144.

Great Yarmouth

Parliamentary Election Petition.

Proceedings at Trial—Allegations against Mr. Justice Grantham, etc.

Motion, Opportunity for Discussing.
Qs. Lord R. Cecil, Mr. MacNeill; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 19*, 57.
Q. Mr. Arkwright; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *July 2*, 1434

Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill

l. Report from Select Committee, *June 28*, 1081.
3R.* *July 2*, 1334.
c. 1R.* *July 2*, 1371.

Greenwich Hospital and Travers' Foundation

Accounts Presented, *June 20*, 146; *June 21*, 298.

Greenwich Observatory
- London County Council Electric Power Station, near, Effect of, on Instruments, Danger to Shipping etc.—Protection of Observatory by Act of Parliament, proposed.
  - *Os.* Lord Ellenborough, *June 21*, 320–326, 337; Lord Tweedmouth, 326–328, 336, 337; Viscount Goschen, 328, 329; Earl of Crawford, 329–333; Lord Kelvin, *June 21*, 333–335; Earl Cawdor, 335, 336; Lord Muskerry, 336; Bishop of Southwell, 337.
- Report of Astronomer Royal, Presented, *June 22*, 468; *June 25*, 586.

Greenwood, Mr. G. [Peterborough]
- Education (England and Wales) Bill. *Com., July 2*, 1490–1493.
- Ordnance Maps, Issue of, on Scale of two inches to the Mile, proposed, *June 21*, 347.
- Vivisection Experiments, Increase in Number of, *June 28*, 1137, 1138.

Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E.—*Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs* [Northumberland, Berwick]
- Abyssinia
  - Djibuti Railway Extension, Decision as to, *July 2*, 1391.
  - Goods Rates, Agreement as to, *July 3*, 1619.
  - Harrar, Decision as to Governorship of, *June 19*, 37.
- Aland Islands, alleged Russian Occupation of, *June 28*, 1132; *July 2*, 1415.
- Canned Foodstuffs, American, Charges as to—Report of British Consul at Chicago, etc., *June 19*, 22; *June 26*, 767.
- China
  - Customs edict, Decision as to, *July 2*, 1414; *July 3*, 1597.
  - Missionaries, Protection of—Settlement of Nan-Chang Claim, etc. *July 3*, 1620.
  - Shanghai—Reorganisation of Administration, etc., proposed, *July 2*, 1411.
- Commercial Agents, British and Foreign, Number of, etc., *June 28*, 1111.
- Crete Administration—Work of International Commission, *July 3*, 1620, 1621.
- Egypt
  - British Officers, Attack on, *June 21*, 342, 343, 361.
    - Evidence given at Trial, etc., *July 3*, 1619.
    - Sentences on Natives, etc., *June 28*, 1111, 1133, 1135; *July 2*, 1411–1413.

Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E.—*cont.*
- Egypt—*cont.*
  - Turco-Egyptian Frontier, Progress made with Delimitation of, *July 3*, 1619.
- Macedonian Officials, Payment of Salaries of, *July 3*, 1597.
- Montenegro—Turkish Outrages on Frontier *July 3*, 1618.
- Morocco—Accession of Sultan to Algeciras Act, *July 2*, 1415.
- Russian Anti-semitic Outrages—British Government Representations, Countermanding Visit of British Fleet, etc., *July 19*, 22; *June 21*, 360, 361; *June 25*, 615; *June 26*, 768, 769; *June 27*, 917; *June 28*, 1132.
- Servia—Conditions of British Resumption of Diplomatic Relations, *June 28*, 1133.
- Sudan—Date of Evacuation of Bahr-el-Ghazal, *July 2*, 1414.
- Turkey, Unrest in—Euphrates Valley, Measures for Protection of British Subjects, etc., *July 2*, 1415.

Ground Game Bill
- *l.* 2r., *June 25*, 581; *July 3*, 1560.

Grove, Mr. T. N. A. [Northants, S.]
- Amersham Water Company, Powers of, as to Private Fire Hydrants, *June 19*, 26.
- Transvaal.
  - Estate Duty, English, Levy of—Revision of System, proposed, *June 27*, 916.
  - Trust Estates, Levy of English Duty on, *June 25*, 586.
- Weedon Government Stores, Pay of Writers in, *June 27*, 921.

Guest, Mr. I. C. [Cardiff District]
- Land Tenure Bill, *Con., June 22*, 517; *June 29*, 1295–1297.

Guiana, British
- Administration, Decision as to, Petitions for Inquiry into
  - *Q.* Mr. Byles; *A.* Mr. Churchill *June 26*, 765.
  - *Q.* Mr. J. Ward; *A.* Mr. Churchill *June 28*, 1130, 1131.

Gulland, Mr. J. W. [Dumfries Burghs]
- Edinburgh—Replanting, etc., of Holyrood Park, proposed, *June 27*, 935.
- Millport Marine Biological Classes, alleged intention to cancel, *July 2*, 1429.
- Pupil Teachers, Grant for, *June 26*, 778.

Hackney Electricity Bill
- *l.* 2r.* *June 19*, 3.

Hague Conference

- Belgian Administration of the Congo Free State, referring Question to, proposed. *Os.* Lord Fitzmaurice, *July 3*, 1582.

Haldane, Rt. Hon. R. B—*Secretary of State for War* [Haddington]

- Bands—Sunday Performance, Regulations as to, *June 28*, 1121.
- Barracks at Tidworth, Scavenging Tenders for, *June 27*, 921.
- Belfast, Troops in—Meat Supply Arrangements, *June 25*, 612.
- Bremner, D., Case of, *July 2*, 1403.
- Connaught, Duke of, Reason for Visit of, to Sweden, *June 21*, 356.
- Crimean War—Case of C. Brosnihan, *June 25*, 613
- Good Conduct Medals—Claim of H. Hulme, *June 21*, 353.
- Inspector-General of Forces, Duties of, *June 21*, 356.
- Irish Candidates, Procedure in Admission of, *July 2*, 1404.
- London Defences, Proposals as to disposing of, *June 28*, 1110.
- Lovat's Scouts, Additional Squadron for, proposed, *June 28*, 1110.
- Militia
  - Ballykinlar Camp, Meat supplied to, *June 21*, 356.
  - Northumberland Artillery, Headquarters of, *June 28*, 1109.
  - Officers' Travelling Expenses, Payment of, proposed, *June 21*, 354.
- Ordnance Factories Wages, Decision as to, *July 3*, 1610.
- Pensions
  - Age for Commuting, *July 2*, 1403.
  - Quartermasters, Regulations as to, *June 22*, 498.
- Pressley, Sergeant T., Case of, *June 21*, 354, 355.
- Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, Reduction in, proposed, *July 2*, 1405.
- Rifle Clubs, Grant to, proposed *June 28*, 1110.
- Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association—alleged Exclusion of Families of Officers risen from the Ranks, *June 21*, 355, 356.
- South African War Official History—War Stores Commission Report, Inclusion of, proposed, *June 19*, 33.
- Sparkbrook Small Arms Factory, Conditions of Transfer of, *June 25*, 613.
- Volunteers
  - Ammunition, Regulations as to Supply of, *June 21*, 355.

Haldane, Rt. Hon. R. B.—*cont.*

- Volunteers—*cont.*
  - Ordnance Factory Employees, Pay of, during Camp Training, *June 28*, 1121.
  - Scotch Regiments attached to other Brigades for Camp Training, Allowances of, *June 26*, 763.
- War Office Meat Contracts
  - American Firms holding, *June 21*, 352.
  - Effect of New Rules on Agricultural Interests, *June 19*, 34.
  - Home-grown Produce, etc., Decision as to, *June 27*, 921.
- Weedon Stores, pay of Writers in, *June 27*, 922.
- Wireless Telegraphy System used in Army, Regulations as to Intercommunication, etc., *June 28*, 1120.
- Woolwich Arsenal Discharges, Decision as to, *June 27*, 923.
- Worcester Regiment, Fourth Battalion—Date of leaving Egypt, *June 27*, 923.

Halpin, Mr. J. [Clare, W.]

- Canned Food Stuffs
  - Irish Public Institutions, Supply to, *June 21*, 376, 377.
  - Tuberculous Meat, Precautions against Use of, *July 3*, 1634.
- Clare Evicted Tenants, Number of, Progress made with Reinstatement, etc., *June 26*, 784.
- White Estate—Reinstatement of M. Maloney, *June 20*, 186.

Halsbury, Earl of

- Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill, *Com.*, *June 22*, 473, 480.

Hamilton, Marquess of [Londonderry]

- Londonderry Workhouse—Interference by Lady Guardian alleged, *June 21*, 352.

Hamilton, of Dalzell, Lord

- Ground Game Bill, 2R., *July 3*, 1565, 1566.

Hammersmith, City and North East London Railway Bill

- Motion for Suspension of Proceedings on, until next Session (Mr. Emmott), *July 3*, 1591, 1592.
  - *Os.* Mr. Emmott, *July 3*, 1591, 1593; Mr. T. M. Healy, 1593.

Hammond, Mr. J. [Carlow]

- Faulkner Estate Rents, Alleged Pressure for Payment of, *June 20*, 153.
- Kilcloney Farm, Proposals as to, *June 26*, 791.

Hampstead Garden Suburb Bill
- *c. Rep.** *June, 22*, 494.
- *Con.* and 3r.* *June 27*, 913.
- *l.* 1r.* *June 28*, 1082.

Handsworth
- St. Joseph's School, Administration of, Salary of Headmaster, etc.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Boland; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *June 19*, 41.

Harcourt, Rt. Hon. L.—*First Commissioner of Works* [Lancashire, N.E., Rossendale]
- Edinburgh—Improvement of Holyrood Park, proposed, *June 27*, 935.
- Government Contracts—Conditions of Employment under Messrs. Waygood & Co., *June 21*, 370.
- House of Commons, Ventilation, Complaint as to, *June 21*, 371.
- Hyde Park Fountains, Cost of, etc., *June 20*, 157.
- Mall to Charing Cross
  - Buildings in Spring Gardens, Proposals as to, *July 2*, 1428, 1429.
  - New Roadway, Reason for Delay in Opening, *June 25*, 618.

Hardie, Mr. J. K. [Merthyr Tydvil]
- Admiralty Contracts—Wages Paid by Messrs. Richards, *June 20*, 164.
- Channel Islands—Blasting Accidents and Inquiries thereon during past Five Years, *June 25*, 616.
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 102.
- Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill, *Con.*, *June 19*, 141.
- Unemployed Workmen Bill, Proposals as to, *June 19*, 58; *June 20*, 195.
- Women's Suffrage Disturbance in Cavendish Square—Sentence on Miss Billington, etc., *June 21*, 365, 367, 461, 462.

Hardie, Mr. L. [Kent, Ashford]
- Divisions—Rule as to tellers proceeding immediately to Doors of Lobbies, *June 20*, 289.
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Con.*, *June 19*, 73, 76, 91, 103, 104; *June 20*, 229, 245, 289; *June 25*, 695–697; *June 26*, 876; *June 27*, 984; *July 3*, 1675, 1676.
- Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 22*, 516, 528; *June 29*, 1285, 1286.

Harmood-Banner, Mr. J. S. [Liverpool, Everton]
- Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill, 2r., *June 26*, 901, 902.

Harmsworth, Mr. R. L. [Caithness]
- Small Holdings Committee, Evidence given before in Scotland, etc., *July 2*, 1391.
- Telegraph Service in Rural Districts, Improvement of, proposed, *July 3*, 1600.

Harris, Lord
- Transvaal Mines, Labour for
  - Re-introduction of Indiscriminate Recruiting, Allegations as to, *June 29*, 1240, 1242–1244.
  - Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Recruiting System of, *June 29*, 1241–1244.

Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B. [Yorks, E.R., Howdenshire]
- Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 29*, 1289.

Harwich Harbour
- Abstract of Accounts of Receipts and Expenditure of Conservancy Board, Presented, *June 28*, 1083, 1095.

Harwood, Mr. G. [Bolton]
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 20*, 215, 236; *June 25*, 707–709; *July 2*, 1501.
- Russia—Fear of Anti-Semitic Outrages in, *June 19*, 22.
- Russian Anti-Semitic Disturbances—Russian Government Measures for Protection of Jews, etc., *June 25*, 646.

Haslingden Corporation Bill
- *c. Con.** *June 21*, 339.
- *l.* Commons Amendts. *Con.** *June 26*, 746.

Havana United Railways and Regla Warehouses Bill
- *c. Rep.** *June 22*, 470.

Haversham, Lord
- Reserve Forces Bill, 3r., *June 22*, 485, 486.

Hawaii
- Trade Report Presented, *June 21*, 298.

Haworth, Mr. A. A. [Manchester, S.]
- Local Government Provisional Order (No. 10) Bill, *July 2*, 1532.

Hay, Mr. C. G. D. [Shoreditch, Hoxton]
- Customs Statistical Office, Strength of, *June 20*, 159.
- Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill, *Con.*, *June 19*, 142.
- Great Northern Railway Bill, *Con.*, *June 25*, 738.
- Mall to Charing Cross—proposals as to Buildings in Spring Gardens, *July 2*, 1428, 1429.

[*cont.*

Hay, Mr. C. G. D.—*cont.*
  Wireless Telegraphy
    Adoption of, alleged Attack on the Post Office by Lloyds, *June 21*, 458, 459.
    Tabling Admiralty Agreement proposed, *June 28*, 1122.
  Wireless Telegraphy Bill, Proposals as to, *June 28*, 1145; *July 2*, 1433.
  Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill—Instruction to Committee, *June 26*, 903.

Hayden, Mr. J. P. [Roscommon, S.]
  Cleaver Estate, Grazing Farm, Disposal of, *June 27*, 940.
  Congested Districts Board—Land Sold by, Progress made, etc., *June 28*, 1177–1181.
  Glasnevin Model Farm, Public Right of Access to, *July 3*, 1633.
  Labourers Acts Loans, Interest on—Return proposed, *June 20*, 193.
  Land Act of 1903, Failure of, Necessity for Inquiry into, etc., *June 28*, 1177, 1181.

Hazel, Dr. A. E. W. [West Bromwich]
  Ecclesiastical Discipline Commission Report, Date of Presenting, *June 21*, 353.
  Indian Education Service—Appointment of Messrs. E. Candler, J. A. Chapman, and W. Horn, *June 26*, 766, 767.

Hazelton, Mr. R. [Galway, N.]
  Ancient Monuments, Irish, Grant for Preservation of, *June 19*, 56.
  Canadian Immigration Bounties, Information as to Payment of, *June 27*, 923.
  National Library Attendants, Pay and Duties of, *June 19*, 28.

Healy, Mr. T. M. [Louth, N.]
  Brandy—Precautions against Fraudulent Imports, *July 3*, 1622, 1623.
  Education
    Intermediate Board Rules, 1906-7—Resolution of House of Commons as to, Refusal of Board to carry out, *July 2*, 1549, 1550.
    King's Scholars, Books recommended to, in Examination Programme, *July 2*, 1386.
    Sunday Observance, Explanation of, *July 2*, 1425.
  Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *July 3*, 1682, 1683, 1702–1704.
  Hammersmith, City, and North East London Railway Bill—*Motion* for Suspension of Proceedings on, until next session, *July 3*, 1593.
  Local Government Provisional Order (No. 10) Bill, 2R., *July 2*, 1532.
  New York Mutual Reserve Company—Reason for withdrawal of English Deposit, *July 3*, 1327.

Heaton, Mr. J. H. [Canterbury]
  Post Office
    Foreign Letter Postage, Changes in, *June 21*, 398.
    Letters posted by Mistake, Question as to Return of, *June 21*, 400.
    Losses, Liability for, *June 21*, 400.
    Money Orders
      Foreign, Reduction in Poundage on, proposed, *June 21*, 399.
      Telegraph Orders, delivering Money direct to Addressees, proposed, *June 21*, 399.
    Penny Post, universal, Possibility of establishing, *June 21*, 398, 399.
    Post Cards, selling at face value proposed, *June 21*, 399.
    Private letter boxes, affording Facilities for, proposed, *June 21*, 399.
    Stamps, Facilities for purchasing at Railway Stations, proposed, *June 21*, 400.
    Sub-postmasters, Abolition of System of political Patronage, proposed, *June 21*, 401.
  Telegrams, loss on, *June 21*, 400.

Heaton-Armstrong, Mr. W. C. [Suffolk, Sudbury]
  Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Bill, Proposals as to, *June 27*, 956.

Helme, Mr. N. W. [Lancashire, N., Lancaster]
  Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Con.*, *July 2*, 1494–1496.

Helmsley, Lord [Yorks., N.R., Thirsk]
  Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 22*, 501, 502, 545 546,; *June 29*, 1273.

Hemphill, Lord
  Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill, *Com.*, *June 22*, 475.

Heneage, Lord
  Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill, *Com.*, *June 22*, 474.
  North Sea Fisheries Investigations, proceedings of International Council, etc., *June 25*, 572–575.
  Russia, Visit of British Fleet, during Manœuvres, *July 2*, 1361–1363.

Henderson, Mr. A. [Durham, Barnard Castle]
  Coach-making Trade, lead poisoning Cases in, *June 28*, 1139.
  Women Suffragists, Disturbances created by—Arrest and Imprisonment of Miss Billington, *June 21*, 463.
  Workshops, Domestic, used as sleeping-places, Number and Regulation of, *June 21*, 365.

Henderson, Mr. J. McD. [Aberdeenshire, W.]
Tramcars, Electric, Accidents to, on Steep Gradients, Inquiry into brake system, proposed, *June 27*, 931.

Trustees, Public—Cost of establishing Department, *June 28*, 1148.

Herbert, Col. [Monmouthshire, S.]
Gilfach Goch—Caradoc Mine Disaster, Accuracy of plan of Workings, etc., *July 2*, 1418.
Welsh Mines, Inspection of, etc., *June 26*, 773.

Herbert, Mr. T. A. [Bucks., Wycombe]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 20*, 215, 216; *June 26*, 823.

Hereford
Shop Hours Act, Orders made under, Presented *June 19*, 5, 20.

Herries, Lord
Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill, *Com.*, *June 22*, 478.

Herrings
Brand for Irish Herrings, proposed.
Os. Mr. Boland, *June 28*, 1214.

Hill, Mr. H. S. [Staffordshire, Kingswinford]
Admiralty Glassware Contracts, Allocation of *June 19*, 33.
Education Bill—Enactments to be repealed, date of Tabling Papers, *June 28*, 1147.

Hillas Estate
Foley, P., Case of.
Q. Mr. McHugh; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1397.

Historical Manuscripts
Publication, Discussion of question of, proposed.
Q. Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 593.

Hobart, Sir R. [Hants, New Forest]
Army Regulations as to Blank Ammunition, *June 25*, 631, 632.
Militia
Headquarters of Northumberland Artillery, *June 28*, 1109.
Officers' travelling Expenses, Payment of, proposed, *June 21*, 354.

Hobhouse, Mr. C. E. H. [Bristol, E.]
Ceylon Pearl Fisheries, Conditions of leasing, *June 27*, 925.
Ecclesiastical Commissioners, Public-houses on Estates of, etc., *June 27*, 936, 937.
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *July 2*, 1503, 1504.

Hodge, Mr. J. [Lancashire, S.E. Gorton]
Agents and Canvassers trading in opposition to late Employers, Legislation to Prevent, proposed, *June 27*, 920.

Hogan, Mr. M. [Tipperary, N.]
Terryglass Graveyard, Condition of, *July 2*, 1387.

Holme Lacy
Prynces Charity, Proposals as to.
Q. Sir W. Foster; *A.* Mr. Trevelyan, *June 26*, 756.

Holyhead Water Bill
l. Royal Assent, *June 22*, 465.

Home Office
Secretary of State.—Rt. Hon. H. Gladstone.
Under-Secretary—Mr. H. Samuel.

Hong Kong
Report (1905) Presented, *June 20*, 146; *June 21*, 298.

Horniman, Mr. E. J. [Chelsea]
National Gallery New Director, Terms of Appointment of, *June 25*, 662.

Horridge, Mr. T. G. [Manchester, E.]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com. June 19*, 95.
Local Government Provisional Order (No. 10) Bill, 2R., *July 2*, 1534–1536.

House of Commons
See under Parliament.

House of Lords
See under Parliament.

Housing of the Working Classes
Ireland.
Increase of facilities in, proposed.
Qs. Mr. W Redmond, Mr. T. O'Donnell, Mr. Flavin; *As.* Mr. Cherry, *June 26*, 782, 783.
Interest charged on loans.
Qs. Mr. T. O'Donnell; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 21*, 374, 375.
Q. Mr. J. O'Kelly; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 627, 628.
Q. Mr. Barrie; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 28*, 1157.
Towns, Proposals as to.
Qs. Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 46, 47.

Housing of the Working Classes Act
Loans repayable over Eighty years, Number of.
Q. Mr. Armitage; *A.* Mr. Burns, *July 2*, 1395.

Howth Harbour
Buoy, placing in Sound, proposed.
Q. Mr. Clancy; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 21*, 344, 345.

Huddersfield Corporation Bill
- *l. Rep.* July 3,* 1557.

Hull Joint Dock Bill
- *c. Con.* June 19,* 16.
  - 3R* *June 22,* 494.
- *l.* Commons Amendts., *Con.* June 25,* 561.

Hull and Barnsley and Great Central Railway Companies' Bill
- *c. Rep.* June 21,* 340.
  - *Con.* June 27,* 913.
  - 3R.* *July 2,* 1370.
- *l.* Common's Amendts., *Con.* July 3,* 1558.

Hull and Barnsley Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill
- *c. Rep.* June 21,* 340.
  - *Con.* June 27,* 913.

Hutton, Mr. A. E. [Yorks., W.R., Morley]
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., June 25,* 699; *June 27,* 1031.
- Poplar Schools at, Expenditure on.
  - *Q.* Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 25,* 620.

Hyde Park
- Fountains, Cost of, Number of Days Playing since 1900, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. L. Morgan; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *June 20,* 157.

Imperial Institute
- Accounts and Report, Annual, Presentation of, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. Laidlaw; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 20,* 158.
- Staff, Procedure in Selecting.
  - *Q.* Mr. Laidlaw; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 20,* 159.

Imports and Exports
- *See* Exports and Imports.

Income Tax
- Earl's Court Exhibitors, Assessment of.
  - *Q.* Lord R. Cecil; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *June 28,* 1136.
- Financial Reserve in Case of War.
  - *Os.* Viscount Aldwyn, *June 21,* 306, 307; Lord Joicey, 314.
- Graduation and Differentiation, Proposals as to.
  - *Os.* Viscount St. Aldwyn, *June 21,* 305; Marquess of Ripon, 316.
  - Committee of Inquiry into.
    - *Os.* Viscount St. Aldwyn, *June 21,* 305; Marquess of Ripon, 316.
- Remission of 1d., Possibility of.
  - *Os.* Viscount St. Aldwyn, *June 21,* 300, 302, 316; Lord Joicey, 314; Marquess of Ripon, 316, 319.
- Yield of, Estimate for 1906–7.
  - *Os.* Viscount St. Aldwyn, *June 21,* 299.

India
- Appointments created during last Seven Years, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. H. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Morley, *June 27,* 926.
- Army
  - Militia Service in South African War Rule as to Counting.
    - *Q.* Mr. Smeaton; *A.* Mr. Morley, *July 2,* 1380.
  - Native Assaults on British Soldiers in the Himalayas.
    - *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *July 2,* 1395.
  - Officers for Native Regiments, Provision of.
    - *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Buchanan, *June 25,* 632.
- Bengal, Eastern
  - Backergunge—Alleged Irregularity in Disposing of Criminal cases.
    - *Q.* Sir H. Cotton; *A.* Mr. Morley, *June 21,* 350.
    - *Q.* Mr. O'Grady; *A.* Mr. Morley, *June 21,* 1381.
  - Condition of—Inquiry proposed.
    - *Q.* Mr. O'Grady; *A.* Mr. Morley, *June 20,* 166.
  - Maldah Schoolboys, Re-admission of, proposed—Operation of Government Orders, etc.
    - *Q.* Sir H. Cotton; *A.* Mr. Morley, *June 21,* 359, 360.
  - Partition of Province, Local Opinion on—Tabling Papers proposed.
    - *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *June 27,* 928.
  - Religious Processions, Restrictions on.
    - *Q.* Sir H. Cotton; *A.* Mr. Morley, *June 21,* 349.
    - *Qs.* Dr. Rutherford, Mr. Rees; *As.* Mr. Morley, *June 27,* 927, 928.
    - *Qs.* Mr. O'Grady, Sir H. Cotton; *As.* Mr. Morley, *July 3,* 1617, 1618.
- Bengal and Bombay Civil Service Provident and Pension Funds, Information as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. T. H. Davies; *A.* Mr. Morley, *June 25,* 623
- Budget, Date of Taking.
  - *Q.* Mr. H. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Morley, *June 28,* 1096.
- Education
  - Appointment and Qualifications of Messrs. E. Candler, J. A. Chapman, and W. Horn.
    - *Qs.* Dr. Hazel, Sir H. Cotton; *As.* Mr. Ellis, *June 26,* 766, 767.
  - Elementary, Expenditure on.
    - *Q.* Mr. O Grady; *A.* Mr. Morley, *July 2,* 1381.

[*cont.*

India—*cont.*

Education—*cont.*

Technical Education, Expenditure on.
Q. Mr. H. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Morley, *June 28*, 1096.

Excise Administration Committee Report, Date of Circulating.
Q. Mr. H. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Morley, *June 27*, 927.

Financial Condition of, Stability of, Necessity for maintaining.
Os. Lord Welby, *June 21*, 309–311.

Government Departments—Increase of Pay of Superior Officers during last Four Years. etc.
Q. Mr. H. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Morley, *June 27*, 926.

Jute Cultivation, Encouragement of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Mond; *A.* Mr. Morley, *June 25*, 622.

Loans raised in India, Return Presented, *June 25*, 563, 584.

Services—Resolutions issued as to Grant of Exchange Compensation Allowance to European Officers.
Q. Sir S. King; *A.* Mr. Morley, *June 26*, 757.

Return Ordered, *June 27*, 1080.

India Office

Secretary of State—Rt. Hon. J. Morley.
Under-Secretary—Rt. Hon. J. E. Ellis.

Indian Railways Act Amendment Bill

l. 2R., *June 21*, 320.
*Com.** *June 22*, 469.

Report from Standing Committee, *June 26*, 748.
3R.* *June 28*, 1084.

Inebriates Act

Scotland—Regulations as to Transfer of Inebriates, Presented, *June* 19, 5, 20.

Infant Life Protection Bill

c. 1R.* *June 26*, 799.

Infectious Disease (Ireland) Bill

c. 1R.* *June 19*, 60.

Insurance Companies

Solvency of—Proposals for Protection of British Policy Holders, etc.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *June 25*, 615.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 26*, 755.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 27*, 917, 918.

Intestates Estates (Scotland) Bill

c. 1R.* *June 28*, 1160.

Intestates (Mothers) Moveable Succession (Scotland) Bill

c. 1R.* *June 28*, 1160.

Ireland

Chief Secretary—Rt. Hon. J. Bryce.
Lord-Lieutenant—Earl of Aberdeen.
Attorney-General—Rt. Hon. R. R. Cherry.
Solicitor-General—Mr. R. Barry.

[*See also names of Places.*]

Ancient Monuments, Grant for Preservation of.
Q. Mr. Hazleton; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 19*, 56.

Constabulary, Royal Irish, *see that title.*

Consumption in, Measures taken to check.
Q. Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 593.
Q. Mr. Ffrench; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 761.
Q. Mr. V. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 794.
Q. Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1104.

Copper Mining Industry, Development of, proposed.
Os Mr. Boland, *June 28*, 1212.

Development Grant, Disposal of Unexpended Balances, Votes, etc.
Qs. Sir T. Esmonde; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *June 26*, 796, 797.

Dog Licences, Procedure in Stamping, etc.
Q. Mr. McKillop; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *June 20*, 175, 176.

Drainage

CommissionReport, Date of Presenting.
Q. Mr. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 3*, 1635, 1636.

Inland Drainage System, Necessity for, etc.
Q. Mr. V. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 31, 32.

Education, *see title* Education—Ireland.

Fisheries, *see under title* Fisheries.

Great Seal, Arms Represented on.
Q. Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27*, 940, 941.

Gun Licences

[*For particular Places see their names.*]

Casey, Mr. D., Grounds of Refusal to.
Q. Mr. Power; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 151.

Long, P. J., Reason for Refusal of Application.
Q. Mr. Sheehan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 52, 53.

Industrial Development of, Necessity for Effecting.
Os. Mr. Brigg, *June 28*, 1216, 1217.

Jurors and Voters Lists, System of Preparing.
Q. Mr. Meagher; *A.* M. Bryce *June 25*, 603.

Ireland—*cont.*

Lace Industry, Depelopment of, by the Congested Districts Board
Os. Mr. Bryce, *June 28,* 1202; Mr. Boland, 1213; Mr. Murphy, 1218.

Land Act, Land Commission, Land Judges Court, Land Purchase, *see those titles.*

Magistrates, *see under title* Magistrates and Justices of the Peace.

Marine Works Act, Proposals as to Extension of Operations of.
Q. Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *June 26,* 782.

Mortgages on Irish Land held by British Companies, calling for Information as to, proposed.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 27,* 917.

National Library Attendants, Pay and Duties of.
Q. Mr. Hazleton; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19,* 28, 29.

Population and Imperial Taxation in 1851 and 1906-7.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25,* 624, 625.

Prisons, *see that title.*

Rate Collection System, Revision of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Meagher; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25,* 599, 600.

Registry of Titles Central Office—*Status* of Staff.
Q. Mr. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26,* 762.

Royal Canal Board, Duties, etc., of.
Q. Mr. Ginnell; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *Junc 28,* 1151, 1152.

Trade Statistics, Decision as to Separate Publication of.
Qs Mr. T. O'Donnell, Mr. Flynn; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 20,* 193,194.
Q. Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 21,* 3 4.

Trinity College—Professor of Irish, Election and Payment of.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2,* 1381, 1382.

Valuation System, Assimilating with that of England, proposed.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 21,* 350.

Works Board—Pensions of Officials, Case of R. McConkey, etc.
Q. Mr. Joyce; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 19,* 55.

Irish Language

Teaching in Schools.

Gaelic League, Objections of.
Q. Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19,* 54.

Irish Language—*cont.*

Teaching in Schools—*cont.*

Number of Pupils, Fees paid, etc.
Q. Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26,* 793.

Placing on an equality with other Languages proposed.
Os. Mr. T. O'Donnell, *July 2,* 1539.

Proposals as to.
Q. Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19,* 53.
Q. Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25,* 600.
Q. Mr. Long; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26,* 757, 758.

Isle of Man

Revenue and Expenditure—Accounts, etc., Presented, *June 29,* 1252.

Isle of Man (Customs) Bill

c. 1R.* *June 27,* 959.

Italy

Trade Report Presented, *June 21,* 298.

James of Hereford, Lord

Ground Game Bill, 2R., *July 3,* 1567.

Japan

Trade Report Presented, *June 21,* 298.

Jardine, Sir J. [Roxburghshire]

Ceylon Pearl Fisheries, Conditions of Leasing, *June 25,* 638, 640, 662; *July 3,* 1616.

Jenkins, Mr. J. [Chatham]

Naval Dockyards
Chatham, Area and Value of, *July 2,* 1401.
Wages, Decision as to, *July 2,* 1401.

Jersey

Trading Stamps, Legislative Measures for prohibiting use of.
Qs. Mr. J. Ward; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 19,* 37.

Jersey, Earl of

Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill, *Com.,* *June 22,* 479.

Russia—Visit of British Fleet during Manœuvres, *July 2,* 1360, 1361, 1366.

Jewish Territorial Society

Colonisation Scheme of.
Q. Sir W. Evans Gordon; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 25,* 642.

Johnsgrove

Reinstatement Application of L. McEvoy.
Q. Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19,* 30, 31.

Joicey, Lord
Army and Navy Expenditure, Possibility of effecting Reduction in, *June 21*, 314, 315.
Coal Tax, Abolition of, *June 21*, 313, 314.
Finance Bill, 2R., *June 21*, 312–315.
Income-Tax, Possibility of effecting a Reduction in, *June 21*, 314.

Jones, Mr. L. [Westmoreland, Appleby]
Education Local Authorities, Legislation to authorise Election of Women as proposed, *June 25*, 664.
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., June 20*, 218, 239, 240, 284.
Amendment to authorise Women as Education Authorities, proposed, *June 21*, 369, 370.
Land Tenure Bill, *Con., June 22*, 511, 512.

Jowett, Mr. F. W. [Bradford, W.]
Natal Native Rising—Alleged Employment of Prisoners in Kimberley Mines, *June 21*, 356.

Joyce, Mr. M. [Limerick]
Butter Transit to England—Claim of Irish Co-operative Agency Society, against Railway Companies, *June 19*, 38.
Fisheries, Admiralty Assistance for Protection of, *June 26*, 791.
Lighting Royal Commission, Proposals as to, *July 2*, 1431.
Limerick Post Office—M. Larkin, Delay in paying Pension of, *June 25*, 660.
Works Board Officials, Pensions of—Case of R. McConkey, *June 19*, 55.

Judicial Statistics
Ireland—Civil Statistics Presented, *July 2*, 1335, 1372.

Juries
System of calling for Service on, alleged Grievance as to, in London Suburbs. *Q.* Mr. Rees; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 25*, 647.

Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill
l. Com., June 22, 469.
Report from Standing Committee, *June 26*, 748.
Rep. June 28*, 1084.
3R.* *June 29*, 1239.
Debate on Order for Committee [Lords] *June 22*, 469.
Ireland, Practice in, Allegations as to, 471, 472, 473–476.
Lords Lieutenants, Method of making Appointments followed by, 471, 472, 474–476.
Magistrates living outside and having no Connection with a County, Objections to Appointment of, 478, 479.

Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill—*cont.*
Debate on Order, etc.—*cont.*
Party or Political Appointments, Objections to, 470–472, 477, 478.
Property Qualification, Abolition of, 470.
Removal of Magistrates who fail to carry out their duties, proposed, 472–474, 476, 477.
Residential Qualifications — Seven-mile limit, Objections to, 478, 479.
Solicitors, Stipulation as to, Qualifications of, 479, 480.

Kearley, Mr. H. E.—*Parliamentary Secretary Board of Trade* [Devonport]
Dingwall and Cromarty Light Railway, Progress made with, *June 25*, 616.
Fishery Interests of Cornish Crabbers, Protection of, *June 25*, 655.
Great Northern Railway Bill, *Con., June 25*, 739, 740.
Insurance Companies, Solvency of—Establishment of State Department for auditing etc., proposed, *June 25*, 615.
Light Railways—Increase of Treasury Grants for Scottish crofting Counties proposed, *June 25*, 654.

Kekewich, Sir G. W. [Exeter]
Bodmin Parliamentary Election Petition, Report, etc., distributing to Members, proposed, *June 21*, 387.
Civil Service Writers, compulsory Retirement of, *July 3*, 1601.

Kelley, Mr. G. D. [Manchester, S.W.]
Local Government Provisional Order (No. 10) Bill, 2R., *July 2*, 1525.

Kelvin, Lord
Greenwich Observatory, Danger to Instruments caused by Erection of London County Council Power Station near, *June 21*, 333–335.

Kenmare Estate
Re-instatement Application of Mr. O'Shea. *Qs.* Mr. Murphy; *As.* Mr. Bryce *June 19*, 48, 49.

Kennaway, Sir J. H. [Devonshire, Honiton]
Transvaal Chinese Labourers — Charges against Mr. Jamieson, *July 2*, 1405, 1406.
Workhouses, Children in, *June 28*, 1115.

Kennedy, Mr. V. P. [Cavan, W.]
Congested Districts Board temporary Clerks, Examination System for, *June 26*, 795.
Consumption in Ireland, Measures taken to check, *June 26*, 794.
Crenagh Glebe—Re-instatement Application of J. Reilly, *June 19*, 53.

[*cont.*

Kennedy, Mr. V. P.—*cont.*
Divisions—Procedure in Cases of Voting in wrong Lobby, *June 19*, 58.
Drainage, Inland, Necessity for System of, *June 19*, 31.
Fair Rent Appeals pending, etc., *June 26*, 794.
Finlay Estate—Case of H. Heavy, *June 26*, 761.
Town Tenants Bill, Proposals as to, *June 19*, 51.

Kenyon-Slaney, Col. [Shropshire, Newport]
Ex-soldiers as rural Postmen, proposed, *June 21*, 429, 430.
Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 22*, 498, 505, 506, 529, 547–550, 557–559; *June 29*, 1263–1265, 1269–1272, 1308, 1309.

Kerry
Bog, Examinaton and Repair of Outlet, proposed.
Os. Mr. Murphy, *June 28*, 1218, 1219.
Condition of, Delay in Dealing with Congested Areas, etc.
Os. Mr. T. O'Donnell, *June 28*, 1185–1188; Mr. Bryce, 1203, 1204.
Evicted Tenants, Inquiry into cases of.
Q. Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1385, 1386.

Kettering Railway Bill
l. 2R.* *June 19*, 3.

Kettering Water Bill
*l. Rep.** *June 25*, 561.
3R.* *June 28*, 1082.

Kew Gardens
Cambridge Cottage, proposals for utilising.
Q. Capt. Balfour; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *July 2*, 1391.
Complaints by employees, Procedure in making.
Q. Mr. Summerbell; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *July 2*, 1379.
No. 1 Museum, Date of issuing guide to.
Q. Mr. J. R. Macdonald; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *June 25*, 657, 658.
Plants given, Received and Exchanged during last five years.
Q. Mr. Branch; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *June 27*, 935, 936.

Kilbrennan Sound
Fishing, illegal, in, alleged.
Q. Mr. Lamont; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *June 26*, 780.

Kilbride, Mr. D. [Kildare, S.]
Clanricarde Estate, Situation on, *June 27*, 947, 948.
Cappaloughlin Estate Sale Terms, etc., *June 20*, 177.

Kilbride, Mr. D.—*cont.*
Land Purchase—Holdings to which Acts do not apply, alleged sale of, *June 21*, 373.
Luggacurran Evicted Tenants, Houses Erected for, *June 27*, 951.
MacDonnell, Sir A., Duties of, *June 28*, 1151.

Kilcloney Farm
Proposals as to.
Q. Mr. Hammond; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 791.

Kilkenny
District Lunatic Asylum—Number of Patients, Cost, etc.
Q. Mr. Meagher; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 599.

Killaloe
Petty Sessions Clerk—Sanction to Appointment of Mr. M'Keogh.
Q. Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 626.

Killarney
Fair Rent Appeals—Reason for Exclusion of Cases from List.
Q. Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1107.

Killavallen
Schoolhouse, Condition of, and proposals as to.
Q. Mr. Abraham; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 21*, 382.

Kilnsea
Coast Erosion, Report on.
Qs. Mr. A. S. Wilson; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 26*, 774.

Killucan
Postmaster, Late, alleged Distribution of Tracts, etc., by.
Q. Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 386.

King, Sir H. S. [Hull, Central]
Indian Services—Resolutions issued as to Grant of Exchange Compensation Allowance to European Officers, *June 26*, 757.
Pilots, Alien, Applications from, for Renewal of Certificates, *June 19*, 26.

Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill
*c. Rep.** *June 29*, 1248.

Kinnaird, Lord
Ecclesiastical Discipline Commission Report, Reason for delay in presenting, *June 22*, 480, 484.

Kinvarra
Harbour Improvement, Decision as to.
Qs. Mr. Duffy; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 608; *June 28*, 1103.

Labourers' Cottages, Ireland
[*For* particular places, *see their names.*]
Loans, Particulars as to, Interest charged on, etc.
Q. Mr. O'Mara ; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 19*, 23, 24.
Qs. Mr. Clancy, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Flavin ; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 192, 193.
Q. Mr. Ffrench ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 21*, 381 ; *June 25*, 598.
Returns, Date of Circulating.
Q. Mr. Flavin ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1156.
Schemes for forty-eight Cottages, Decision as to.
Q. Mr. McHugh ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1382, 1383.
Towns, Erection in, *see* Housing of the Working Classes.

Labourers (Ireland) Act (Amendment) Bill
Loans under, Expediting Date of issuing at Reduced interest, proposed.
Qs. Mr. Sheehan ; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 21*, 383, 384 ; *June 26*, 786, 787.
Standing Committee on Law—Procedure in Appointing additional Member.
Q. Mr. W. O'Brien ; *A.* Mr. Speaker, *June 27*, 953.

Lagos
Oil-boring, Restrictions upon, proposed.
Q. Mr. Brodie ; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *July 3*, 1597, 1598.

Laidlaw, Mr. R. [Renfrew, E.]
Colonies, Foreign Commercial Agents in—Return proposed, *June 26*, 765.
Commercial Agents, British and Foreign, Number of, etc., *June 28*, 1110.
Imperial Institute Accounts, Selection of Staff, etc., *June 20*, 158.
Indian Mail Service, Expediting, proposed, *June 21*, 368.

Lamb, Mr. E. H. [Rochester]
Chatham Dockyard Discharges and Transfers, Decision as to, *June 20*, 157 ; *July 2*, 1376.
Post Office — Head Postmastership Vacancies, System of Filling up, *June 21*, 454.
"Montagu," H.M.S., Repair at Chatham, proposed, *June 20*, 157.
Telephone Service, Metropolitan Area—Establishment of Uniform Boundary proposed, *June 21*, 454.

Lambton, Mr. F. W. [Durham, S.E.]
Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 22*, 515, 541–545 ; *June 29*, 1272, 1310.

Lamont, Mr. N. [Buteshire]
Cumbrae, Island of—Proposals for Settlement of Pier Dues Dispute, *June 28*, 1141, 1146.
Glasgow Post Office Medical Officers, Decision as to, *June 28*, 1145.
Kilbrennan Sound, Alleged Illegal Fishing in, *June 26*, 780.

Lancashire Electric Power Bill
l. 2R.* *June 19*, 3.

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Superannuation Fund.
l. Royal Assent, *June 22*, 465.

Land Commission, Ireland.
[*For* Particular Estates, *see their names.*]
Casey, J. (Record No. 359), Decision as to Rent of.
Q. Mr. Ginnell ; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27*, 937, 938.
Commissioner
Return Presented, *July 3*, 1594.
Temporary Assistant
Precedent for Dispensing with Services of.
Q. Mr Long ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 757.
Qualifications of and Examinations for.
Qs. Mr. Long ; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 758, 759.
Re-Appointments made.
Q. Mr. Long ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 758.
Fair Rent Appeal—Cases Pending, etc.
Q. Mr. V. Kennedy ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 794, 795.
Judicial Commissioner, Proposals as to.
Qs. Mr. Ginnell ; *As.* Mr. Bryce, Mr. Speaker, *June 28*, 1152, 1153.
Land Clerks etc., Employed by.
Qs. Mr. Sloan, Mr. Delany ; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 186, 187.
Report, Date of Issuing.
Q. Mr. McHugh ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 607.
Thompson, Mr., Qualifications of.
Q. Mr. Ginnell ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27*, 937, 938.
Wilkinson, Mr., Qualifications of.
Q. Mr. Sloan ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 184, 185.
Qs. Mr. Meehan ; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27*, 944.

Land Drainage Provisional Order Bill
l. *Com.** *June 22*, 468.
3R.* *June 25*, 561.

Land Purchase, Ireland

- *See also* names of Estates, etc.
- Administration of Acts, etc.—Commission of Inquiry into, proposed.
  - *Qs.* Mr. C. O'Kelly, *June 28*, 1169–1171; Mr. Hayden, 1177, 1181; Mr. T. W. Russell, 1189, 1191, 1192; Mr. W. Redmond, 1193–1198; Mr. Bryce, 1208–1210; Mr. W. O'Brien, 1210; Mr. Farrell, 1215, 1216; Mr. Verney, 1224; Mr. H. Law, 1231, 1232; Sir T. Esmonde, 1215; Mr. H. Law, 1230–1233.
  - *Q.* Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1104, 1105.
  - Constitution and Terms of Reference of.
    - *Qs.* Mr. W. Redmond, *June 28*, 1193–1198; Mr. Bryce, 1208, 1209; Mr. W. O'Brien, 1210, 1211; Sir T. Esmonde, 1215.
- Advances—Return as to, Presented, *June 25*, 563, 585.
- Compulsory powers to Congested Districts Board, proposed.
  - *Qs.* Mr. C. O'Kelly, *June 28*, 1164–1166; Mr. O'Dowd, 1172.
- Congested Estates Purchased by Commissioners (1903–1906).
  - *Q.* Mr. McHugh; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 784.
- Cowper Commission, Results of.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Paul, *June 28*, 1235, 1236.
- Estates Commissioners' Report, Date of issuing.
  - *Q.* Mr. McHugh; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 607.
- Evasion of Acts by Improper Sale, Alleged
  - *Q.* Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1108.
- Fees, Percentage Scale of.
  - *Q.* Mr. McHugh; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June* 28, 1118.
- Guarantee Deposits under Ashbourne Act, Rules as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *June 19*, 25, 26.
- Holdings to which Land Acts do not Apply, alleged illegal Sale of.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Ginnell, Mr. Kilbride; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 21*, 373.
- Inspectors—Return
  - Date of presenting.
    - *Q.* Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27*, 940.
  - Presented *July 3*, 1594.
- Tenants Improvements
  - Price paid for—Agriculture Department Inquiry proposed.
    - *Q.* Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27*, 939.

Land Purchase, Ireland—*cont.*

- Tenants' Improvements, etc.
  - Protection of, Basis of fixing Value, etc.
    - *Qs.* Mr. Ginnell; *As.* Mr. Cherry, *June 20*, 175.
    - *Qs.* Mr. Ginnell; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 182, 185.
- Untenanted Land Return.
  - Particulars in, and Date of Presenting.
    - *Q.* Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 21*, 376.
  - Return Presented *July 3*, 1594.

Land Tenure Bill

- *c. Con. June 22*, 498; *June 29*, 1257.
- *Debate on consideration* [Commons], *June 22*, 498; *June 29*, 1257.
  - Agricultural Employment, probable Effect of the Measure on, 506, 513.
  - Agricultural Labourers, Interests of, Inclusion of, in scope of the Bill, 557, 558, 559.
  - Arbitration Cases to, referred to a single Arbitrator, Objections to Provisions as to, 1283–1300, 1307–1310, 1315.
  - Compensation for Improvements.
    - Definition of Improvements, Absence of, 559, 560.
    - "Inherent Capabilities of the Soil," difficulty of defining, necessity for Introduction of Words in Clause I., 1257–1268.
    - Specialised Improvements of outgoing Tenant, rate of Compensation to be paid for, 1269–1278, 1295.
    - Transferring obligations as to, from incoming Tenant to Landlord, proposed, 500–502.
  - Date of bringing Act into Operation
    - Postponement of till 1st January, 1908—New Clause, 504–509.
    - Substituting April 7th for January 1st, proposed, 509–520.
  - Drafting of Bill, Complaints as to, 1261, 1262, 1263, 1264.
  - Dual Ownership, Objections to System of, 543.
  - Existing Tenancies
    - Breach of Contract as to, Provisions as to, 532, 533.
    - Provision that Act shall not apply to, until the Day next after the earliest Day on which such tenancy might have been determined by notice given after passing of the Act, proposed, 517, 527–534.
  - Landlords' interests ignored, 501, 504, 505, 542.
  - Legal Interpretation of Clauses, difficulty of, Opinion from Law Officers of the Crown, proposed, 509, 510, 511, 519, 520.

[*cont.*

Land Tenure Bill—*cont.*
Debate on consideration—*cont.*
"No landlord to be allowed to bind an incoming Tenant to settle Claims of outgoing Tenant for Compensation for Improvements"—New Clause, proposed and withdrawn, 500–504.
Repairs to Premises, etc., existing Arrangements between Landlord and Tenant to remain untouched by the Act—New Clause, 498–500.
Scotland, Effect of the Measure in, 531, 532, 533.
Security, Capital, etc., for Landlords as well as Tenants, proposed, 541–550.
Sub-section I. of Clause I.
Addition of Words "desirous of Farming in Accordance with the Custom of the Country," proposed, 1269–1278.
Omission of, proposed, 559, 560, 1258–1268.
Sub-section 2 of Clause I., Omission of, proposed, 1283–1300.

Lane-Fox, Mr. G. [Yorks., W.R., Barkston Ash]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 27*, 996.
Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 22*, 510.

Lansdowne, Marquess of
Baghdad Railway, Turkish guarantee to Germany—British Policy, etc., *July 2*, 1358, 1359.
Congo Free State, Belgian Administration—Decrees and Correspondence relating to, *July 3*, 1582–1587.
Ground Game Bill, 2R., *July 3*, 1566.
Macedonia
Budget Deficiency, Proposals for Meeting, *July 2*, 1356–1357.
Reform Schemes, Progress made with, *July 2*, 1356.
Turkey
Customs Tariff, Proposed Increase in British Trade, Effect on, *July 2*, 1353.
Conditions of British Government Sanction, *July 2*, 1353, 1354, 1359.
Machinery for Carrying out—Proposals as to Ottoman Debt Commission, *July 2*, 1357.
Progress of Negotiations, *July 2*, 1359.

Law, Mr. H. A. [Donegal, W.]
Congested Districts Board, Work of, *June 28*, 1231.
Land Purchase Acts, Administration of—Commission of Inquiry, proposed, *June 28*, 1230–1233.

Lea, Mr. H. C. [St. Pancras, E.]
Bodmin Election Petition, Official Notes, Circulation of, proposed, *June 19*, 57.
Canned Foodstuffs, War Office Contracts for, Discontinuance of, Rations of preserved Meat, proposed, *June 25*, 631.
Transvaal Native Labour—Kaffirs employed on 31st May, 1906, *July 2*, 1390.

Lee, Mr. A. H. [Hants, Fareham]
Defence of the Empire—Government Control over Dissemination of News in War-time, *June 27*, 954.

Leicester
Food Adulteration Prosecutions—Difference in Fines imposed, etc.
Q. Mr. J. R. Macdonald; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 28*, 1137.

Leith
South Leith Manse Repairs, Levy of Assessment for, etc.
Qs. Mr. McCrae, Mr. M. Ferguson, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *June 26*, 779, 780.

Leitrim
Evicted Tenants—Cases Dealt with.
Q. Mr. McHugh; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1154.

Letterkenny
Post Office—Case of Magennis.
Q. Mr. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 28*, 1097.

Lever, Mr. W. H. [Cheshire, Wirral]
Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill, Instruction to Committee, *June 26*, 894, 895, 904.

Lewis, Island of
Migration of Cottars to Mainland—Application from Upper Bayble Cottars, etc.
Qs. Mr. Weir; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *June 25*, 658, 659; *June 26*, 752.
Sanitary Condition, Proposals for Improving.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *June 25*, 659.
Schools—Water Supply, Proposals for Improving.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *June 25*, 658.

Light Railways
See under Railways.

Lights and Lighthouses

Royal Commission on Lighting, Constitution of.

Q. Mr. G. Gibbs; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *July 2,* 1420.

Qs. Mr. C. Devlin, Mr. Joyce; *As,* Mr. Lloyd-George, *July 2,* 1431.

Limerick

Evicted Tenants, Applications from.

Q. Mr. O'Shaughnessy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20,* 191.

Post Office—Delay in Paying Pension of Mr. Larkin.

Q. Mr. Joyce; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 25,* 660, 661.

Limited Partnerships Bill

Com. June 20,* 295.

Liverpool, Earl of

Union Jack on Victoria Tower, Lowering to half-mast on Death of Premier of Self-governing Colonies, proposed—Case of late Mr. Seddon, *June 28,* 1087.

Llanelltyd

Schoolmistress, Delay in Payment of Salary to.

Q. Mr. Bridgeman; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 25,*655.

Lloyd Estate

Sale, proposals for.

Q. Mr. Lundon; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26,* 788.

Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. D.—*President of the Board of Trade* [Carnarvon Boroughs]

Bankruptcy Law Committee, Investigation of Irish Law by, proposed, *June 26,* 796.

Butter, Irish, Transit of, to England—Claim of Irish Co-operative Agency Society against Railway Companies, *June 19,* 38.

Census of Production Bill—Inclusion of Agricultural Produce, proposed, *June 28,* 1141.

Company Returns, Penalty for not Filing, *July 2,* 1419.

"Courier" wreck — Channel Islands Merchant Shipping Regulations, etc., *June 26,* 774, 775.

Cumbrae, Island of—Proposals for settling Pier Dues Dispute, *June 27,* 932; *June 28,* 1141.

Great Northern (Ireland) and Midland Railways Bill—Instruction to Committee, *July 3,* 1746-1747.

Howth Harbour—Placing Buoy in Sound proposed, *June 21,* 345.

Imperial Institute

Accounts and Report, proposed Presentation of, *June 20,* 158.

Staff, Procedure in Selecting, *June 20,* 159.

Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. D.—*cont.*

Insurance Companies, Solvency of—Proposals for Protection of British Policy-holders, etc., *June 26,* 755; *June 27,* 918.

Kilnsea—Report on Coast Erosion at, *June 26,* 774.

Lights and Lighthouses—Royal Commission, Constitution of, *July 2,* 1420, 1431.

Merchandise Marks Act, Amendment of, proposed, *June 20,* 172; *July 2,* 1421.

Merchant Shipping Statutory Rules, Revision of, proposed, *July 3,* 1601.

Mortgages on Irish Land held by British Companies, Calling for Information as to, proposed, *June 27,* 917.

Newhaven and Dieppe, Passenger Rates charged between, *June 29,* 1256.

New York Mutual Reserve Company—Reason for Withdrawal of English Deposit, *July 3,* 1327.

"Pass of Killiecrankie" Charges against Captain, etc.—Decision as to Inquiry, *June 26,* 776.

Pilots, Alien, Applications from, for Renewal of Certificates, *June 19,* 26.

Railways

Banking Train up Inclines by Means of Uncoupled Engine, Danger of Practice of, *June 26,* 775.

Great Southern and Western (Ireland) Railway, Danger from Sparks from Engines, etc., *July 2,* 1393.

Metropolitan District Electric, Stoppages on, *July 2,* 1419.

Timber, Rates for Carriage of, *July 2,* 1418.

Rosslare Harbour Buoys, Improvement of, proposed, *June 21,* 385, 386.

Salisbury Railway Accident—Proposals as to Inquiry, etc., *July 2,* 1419.

Somerset House Search Room—Provision of Additional Registers, etc., proposed, *June 28,* 1143.

Steel Trade—Agreements as to Price, etc., *July 3,* 1626.

Straboe—Alleged Cutting Away of Water Supply of Mr. Dowling's Mill, *July 2,* 1393.

Thames Estuary—Proposals for Lighting and Buoying Barrow Deep, *June 21,* 344.

Tin Trade, Gambling in—Effect on British Industry, etc., *July 2,* 1392.

Trade Statistics, Irish, Decision as to, *June 20,* 194; *June 21,* 384.

Tram Cars, Electric—Inquiry into Brake System, proposed, *June 27,* 918, 931, 932.

Tramway Schemes—Abolition of Borough Council's right of Veto, proposed, *June 28,* 1142.

[*cont.*

Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. D.—*cont.*
Watches, Imported Portions of—Alleged Evasion of Act by not Marking, *June 20*, 172.
Waterford Toll Bridge—Obligation on Fishguard and Rosslare Company to Contribute to New Bridge, etc., *June 28*, 1100.

Local Authorities
Accounts, Committee on—Publication of Evidence, proposed.
Q. Mr. Radford; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 27*, 916.
Female Sanitary Sub-Officers, and Male and Female Inspectors in Ireland—Return Presented, *June 25*, 585.

Local Authorities (Qualification of Women) Bill
Proposals as to
Q. Mr. Brodie; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *July 3*, 1611.

Local Government Board
President—Rt. Hon. J. Burns.
Parliamentary Secretary—Mr. W. Runciman.

Local Government Board (Ireland)
Legal Representation at Proceedings, Practice as to.
Q. Mr. J. Roche; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27*, 944, 945.
Monteith, Mr., Qualifications, etc., of.
Qs. Mr. Meehan; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27*, 942, 943.

Local Government Board (Scotland)
Report, Date of Issuing.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *June 21*, 341, 342.

Local Government (Ireland) Act (1898) Amendment Bill
c. 1R.* *June 26*, 799.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill
l. Royal Assent, *June 22*, 465.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill
l. 2R.* *June 19*, 3.
*Com.** *June 22*, 468.
3R.* *June 25*, 561.

Local Government (Ireland) Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill
l. 2R.* *June 19*, 3.
*Com.** *June 22*, 468.
3R.* *June 25*, 561.

Local Government Provisional Orders (Gas) Bill
l. 2R.* *June 19*, 4.

Local Government Provisional Orders (Housing of the Working Classes) Bill
c. 2R.* *June 19*, 16.
*Rep.** *June 28*, 1092.
3R.* *June 29*, 1248.
l. 1R.* *June 29*, 1239.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill
l. 2R.* *June 19*, 3.
*Rep.** *June 22*, 468.
3R.* *June 25*, 561.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill
l. 2R.* *June 19*, 3.
*Rep.** *June 22*, 468.
3R.* *June 25*, 561.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill
l. 2R.* *June 19*, 4.
*Rep.** *June 22*, 468.
3R.* *June 25*, 561.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 4) Bill
l. 2R.* *June 19*, 4.
*Rep.** *June 22*, 468.
3R.* *June 25*, 561.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 5) Bill
l. 2R.* *June 19*, 4.
*Rep.** *June 22*, 468.
3R.* *June 25*, 561.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 6) Bill
l. 2R.* *June 19*, 4.
*Rep.** *June 22*, 468.
3R.* *June 25*, 561.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 7) Bill
l. 2R.* *June 19*, 4.
*Com.** *June 22*, 468.
3R.* *June 25*, 561.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 8) Bill
c. *Rep.** *June 28*, 1092.
*Con.** and 3R.* *June 29*, 1248.
l. 1R.* *June 29*, 1239.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 9) Bill
c. *Rep.** *July 2*, 1370.
*Con.** and 3R.* *July 3*, 1590.
l. 1R.* *July 3*, 1559.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 10) Bill
- *c.* 2R. *July 2,* 1523.
- Manchester—Inspection of Food Imports, Objections to extra Powers given to Port Sanitary Authority.
  - *Qs.* Mr. C. E. Schwann, *July 2,* 1524, 1525; Mr. Kelley, 1526; Mr. Burns, 1526–1529; Mr. Scott, 1529, 1530; Mr. Field, 1531; Mr. Byles, 1531; Mr. T. M. Healy, 1532; Mr. H. Haworth, 1532; Mr. Emmott, 1533; Mr. Shackleton, 1533, 1534; Mr. Horridge, 1534–1536.
- Manchester Ship Canal, Effect on.
  - *Os.* Mr. C. E. Schwann, *July 2,* 1523–1525; Mr. Kelly, 1525; Mr. Burns, 1526–1529; Mr. Scott, 1529, 1530; Mr. Shackleton, 1534; Mr. Horridge, 1535, 1536.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 11) Bill
- *c.* *Rep.* June 28,* 1092.
  - 3R.* *June 29,* 1248.
- *l.* 1R.* *June 29,* 1239.

Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) Bill
- *l.* 2R.* *June 19,* 4.
  - *Com.* June 22,* 468.
  - 3R.* *June 25,* 561.

Local Government (Scotland) Act (1894) Amendment Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *June 25,* 668.

Local Government Scotland (No. 2) Bill
- *c.* Order for Committee read, etc., and Bill withdrawn, *July 2,* 1436.

Lockwood, Lieut-Col. A. [Essex, Epping]
- Army Ordnance Factories—Decision as to Wages, *July 3,* 1609.
- Great Northern Railway Bill, 3R. *July 2,* 1371.
- Land Tenure Bill, *Con., June 22,* 501, 512; *June 29,* 1263.
- Post Office
  - Mail Van Drivers, Wages and Conditions of Service of, *June 21,* 414.
  - Motor Carriage Service, Development of, proposed, *June 21,* 414.
  - Newspaper Rates to Canada, Decision as to, *June 21,* 414.
  - Rural Postmen, Employment of Ex-Soldiers, *June 21,* 415.
  - Sub-Postmasters, Increasing Remuneration of, proposed, *June 21,* 415.
- Volunteer Camp Training—Ordnance Factory Employees, Pay of, *June 28,* 1121.

Lockwood, Lt.-Col. A.—*cont.*
- Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill
  - Adjournment of Second Reading Debate, proposed, *June 26,* 898, 904.

London
- Defences, Proposals as to Disposing of.
  - *Q.* Mr. Gibbs; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 28,* 1110.
- Re-Housing of displaced Persons—Extension of Legislative Powers proposed.
  - *Qs.* Sir C. Dilke; *As.* Mr. Burns, *July 3,* 1327, 1329.

London Building Acts (Amendment) Act, 1905
- *Precis* of Evidence given before Select Committees of both Houses of Parliament, Presented, *June 26,* 747, 751.

London County Buildings Bill
- *l.* Report from Select Committee, *July 3,* 1557.

London County Council (Electric Supply) Bill
- *c.* Special Report from Select Committee, *June 28,* 1093.

London County Council (General Powers) Bill
- *l.* 2R.* *June 22,* 466.

London County Council (Money) Bill
- *c.* *Con., June 21,* 434.
  - 3R.* *June 21,* 449.
- *l.* 1R.* *June 22,* 467.

London County Council (Tramways and Improvements) Bill
- *l.* 2R.* *June 22,* 466.

London Outer Circle Railway Bill
- *c.* *Rep.* June 21,* 340.

London Squares and Enclosures Bill
- *l.* Report from Select Committee, *July 3,* 1557.

London United Tramways Bill
- *l.* *Rep.* July 3,* 1557.

London & North Western Railway Bill
- *c.* *Rep.* June 28,* 1093.

London & South Western Railway Bill
- *l.* Report from Select Committee, *June 29,* 1237.

Londonderry
- Parliamentary Election—Assault Case, McCullough *v.* Foster.
  - *Q.* Mr. Flynn; A. Mr. Bryce, *June 25,* 608, 609.
- Workhouse—Interference by Lady Guardian, alleged.
  - *Q.* Marquess of Hamilton; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 21,* 352.

Londonderry, Marquess of
Blackburn Petition against Education Bill, *June 25*, 583.
Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill, *Com.*, *June 22*, 469–472.

Long, Mr. W. H. [Dublin, S.]
Belmullet — Decision as to Railway Line to Mullaranny, *July 2*, 1396.
Cavan and Leitrim Railway Extensions, Decision as to, *July 2*, 1396.
Education
  Consultative Committee Report, Tabling, proposed, *June 20*, 150; *June 28*, 1102.
  Intermediate Rules—Tabling Correspondence proposed, *June 28*, 1103.
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 20*, 207, 208, 209.
Harbour Works at Arklow, Wicklow and Portavogie, Progress made with, *July 2*, 1396.
Irish Language, Proposals for Teaching in Schools, *June 26*, 757.
Land Commissioners — Temporary Assistant
  Appointment System, *June 26*, 758, 759.
  Precedents for Dispensing with Services of, Re-appointments made, etc., *June 26*, 757, 758.
Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 22*, 503, 507, 510–512, 516, 533, 534; *June 29*, 1263, 1292, 1310.
Post Office
  Rural Districts, Extension of Facilities in, proposed, *June 21*, 392.
  Vaccination of Employees, Regulations as to, *June 21*, 403.

Longfield Estate
Lehane, D., Reinstatement of.
Q. Mr. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 177.

Lonsdale, Mr. J. B. [Armagh, Mid.]
Aland Islands, alleged Occupation of, by Russia, *July 2*, 1415.
Castlebar—Case of J. Ward, *June 25*, 600.
China
  Customs Edict, Decision as to, *July 2*, 1414.
  Missionaries, Protection of, Settlement of Nan-Chang Claim, etc., *July, 3*, 1620.
Colonial Separation Movement—Speech of Senator Ellis, etc., *July 2*, 1435.
Cornamona School Teacher, Name of, *June 21*, 383.
Crete Administration — Work of International Commission, *July 3*, 1620, 1621.

Lonsdale, Mr. J. B.—*cont.*
Dublin — Disturbance at Auction of Coal owned by Mr. P. O'Carroll, *June 25*, 596.
Education—Intermediate, proposals as to, *June 20*, 179.
McBride, Mr. — Police cognisance of Visit to Dublin, *June 20*, 189.
Morocco—Accession of Sultan to Algeciras Act, *July 2*, 1415.
Nigerian Military Operations, Reason for unrest among Natives, *July 2*, 1409.
Ryefield — Alleged Boycotting of Mr. J. Dowd, *June 25*, 597.
Sudan—Date of Evacuation of Bahr-el-Ghazal, *July 2*, 1414.
Transvaal Chinese Labour — Repatriation Present Location of Twelve Coolies, *July 2*, 1409.
Trinity College, professor of Irish, election and payment of, *July* 2, 1381.
Turkey—Unrest in Euphrates Valley, Measures for Protection of British Subjects, etc., *July 2*, 1415.

Lord Advocate for Scotland
Rt. Hon. T. Shaw.

Lord Chamberlain
Viscount Althorp.

Lord Chancellor
Lord Loreburn.

Lord Chancellor of Ireland
Salary, Reduction of, proposed.
Qs. Mr. Fullerton; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 191, 192.

Lord Chief Justice
Lord Alverstone.

Lord Great Chamberlain
Marquess of Cholmondeley.

Lord Lieutenant of Ireland
Earl of Aberdeen.

Lord President of the Council
Earl of Crewe.

Lord Privy Seal
Marquess of Ripon.

Lord Tredegar's Supplemental Estate Bill
l. *Rep.* June 25*, 561.
3R.* *June 28*, 1081.
c. 1R.* *June 29*, 1250.

Lord Warren of the Duchy of Cornwall
Earl of Ducie.

Loreburn, Lord—*Lord Chancellor.*
Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill, *Com.*, *June 22*, 471, 476–478, 479, 480.
Worcester Parliamentary Election Petition —Inquiry into Charges of Corrupt Practices, *June 28*, 1090.

Lough, Mr. T.—*Parliamentary Secretary Board of Education* [Islington, W.]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 71, 103, 114; *June 20*, 225, 243, 244,; *June 26*, 824, 852, 853; *July 3*, 1710, 1711, 1715–1718.

Clause 36, dropping of proposed, *June 26*, 778.

Enactments to be repealed—Date of Tabling Papers, *June 28*, 1146.

Provisions of, *June 28*, 1147, 1148.

Women as Education Authorities, Amendment to authorise, proposed, *June 21*, 369, 370.

Religious Instruction, Number of Children withdrawn from, *June 28*, 1148.

South Kensington Technological College, Proposals as to, *June 26*, 776, 777.

Teachers' Register, Column B., Names in, *June 21*, 369.

Loughrea

Police Force, Strength of, Protection of Mr. M. Ward, etc.

Q. Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 605.

Ward, Mr., Disturbances at Eviction of, etc.,

Q. Mr. C. Craig; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1099.

Luggacurran

Evicted Tenants — Superintendence of Houses erected for.

Qs. Mr. Meehan, Mr. Kilbride; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27*, 950, 951.

Lunacy

Criminal Lunatics, Procedure in Discharging.

Q. Mr. Marnham; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 27*, 930.

Ireland

Grant, Procedure in paying etc.

Qs. Mr. Cogan; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 47; *June 27*, 952.

Pensions withheld from Inmates of Asylums.

Q. Mr. Cogan; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *July 2*, 1394, 1395.

Report of Commissioners, Presented, *June 28*, 1096; *June 29*, 1239.

Report of Inspectors, Date of Presenting.

Q. Mr. Clancy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 21*, 381.

Lunacy (Ireland) Bill

c. 1R,* *June 19*, 61.

Lundon, Mr. W. [Limerick, E.]

Bevan Estate, Reinstatement of J. Butler and J. Mulcahy, *June 20*, 188.

Curraghlahan—Reinstatement claim of W. O'Brien, *June 26*, 788.

Lloyd Estate, Sale proposals for *June 26*, 788.

Lupton, Mr. A. [Lincolnshire, Sleaford]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com. June 20*, 217.

Medical Officers of Health, proposals for Safeguarding Free Expression of Scientific Opinion by, *July 2*, 1422.

Musical Copyright Bill, *Com.*, *June 26* 910, 911.

Vaccination

Exemption Certificates, Enforcement of Law as to Granting, *July 2*, 1416.

Post Office Employees, Regulation, as to, *June 21*, 401–403.

Welsh Mines, Inspection of—Qualifications of Mr. Atkinson, *June 26*, 772.

Lynch, Mr. H. F. B. [Yorks., W.R., Ripon],

Macedonian Budget Deficit, etc., *June 20*, 169.

Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. A. [St. George's, Hanover Square]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com. June 25*, 687–690.

McBride, Mr.

Police cognisance of Visit to Dublin.

Qs. Mr. Lonsdale; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 189.

McCartie Estate

Re-instatement of D. & J. Healy.

Q. Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 184.

McCrae, Mr. G. [Edinburgh, E.]

Leith, South—Manse Repairs Assessment Case, *June 26*, 779, 780.

Macdonald, Mr. J. R. [Leicester]

Colonial Vote, Proposals as to Taking, *June 25*, 667.

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 118, 119; *June 25*, 715–720.

Kew Gardens—Date of Issuing Guide to No. 1 Museum, *June 25*, 657.

Leicester Food Adulteration Prosecutions—Difference in Fines Imposed, etc., *June 28*, 1137.

Natal Native Rising

Prisoners sent to work in Kimberley Mines, alleged, *June 25*, 613.

Report of Court-Martial on Twelve Natives, etc., *June 25*, 634.

[*cont*

Macdonald, Mr. J. R.—*cont.*
Rights of Way, Public, Protection of, *June 27*, 955 ; *July 2*, 1433.
Russia—British Representations as to Anti-Semitic outrages, *June 21*, 360.
Transvaal Chinese Labourers—Corporal Punishment, Charges against Mr. Jamieson, *July 2*, 1406.

MacDonnell, Sir A.
Duties, Salary, etc., of.
Qs. Mr. Ginnell, Mr. Kilbride; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1151.

McHugh, Mr. P. A. [Sligo, N.]
Congested Districts Board—Price Paid for Land Purchased (1901–1906), *June 26*, 754, 783.
Educational Services of Dr. Starkie, *June 28*, 1099.
Gethin Estate—Case of Mr. McLoughlin, *June 27*, 949.
Hillas Estate—Case of P. Foley, *July 2*, 1397.
Labourers Cottages — Decision as to Schemes for forty-eight Cottages, *July 2*, 1382.
Land Commission—Report of Commissioner, Date of Issuing, *June 25*, 607.
Land Purchase
  Congested Estates Purchased by Commissioners, 1903–1906, *June 26*, 784.
  Estates Commissioners Report, Date of Issuing, *June 25*, 607.
  Fees, Percentage Scale of, *June 28*, 1118.
Sligo and Leitrim Evicted Tenants—Cases dealt with, *June 28*, 1154.
War Office Meat Contracts—Effect of New Rules on Irish Agricultural Interests, etc., *June 19*, 29.
Wynne Estate, Sale of, Holdings Excluded, etc., *June 25*, 623.

Mackarness, Mr. F. C. [Berks., Newbury]
Natal Native Rising—Court-Martial on Twelve Natives Proposals as to Publishing Evidence, *July 2*, 1410.
Transvaal
  Chinese Labourers
    Corporal Punishment—Decision as to Prosecution of Witthauer, *June 25*, 640.
    Repatriation—Text of Notification, *June 25*, 636, 637
  Native Labour Recruiting Facilities for and Progress as to, *July 2*, 1408.

McKenna, Mr. R.—*Financial Secretary of the Treasury* [Monmouthshire, N.]
Admiralty Accountant Clerks, Temporary, Conditions of Appointment of, *June 25*, 621.
Breweries, Rateable Value of and Income-Tax on, etc., *June 29*, 1253.
Civil Service
  Irish Clerks, Transfer of, to Dublin, *June 19*, 23.
  Writers, Compulsory Retirement of, *July 3*, 1602.
Cork City Railways and Works Bill, 3R., *June 26*, 894.
Customs and Excise
  Inspectors—Promotion System, *June 25*, 622.
  Statistical Office Staff, Strength of, *June 20*, 159.
Glebe Loans Act, 1870, Amount Issued under, *June 19*, 24.
Ireland
  Ancient Monuments, Grant for Preservation of, *June 19*, 56.
  Burtonport Railway Line, Inquiry into Administration of, proposed, *June 25*, 592.
  Development Grant — Disposal of Unexpended Balances of Votes, etc., *June 26*, 797.
  Drumtullagh School Teachers' Residence, Conditions of Loan for, *June 25*, 660.
  Dublin—Date of Commencing Valuation, *June 29*, 1253.
  Housing of the Working Classes—Revision of Loan System proposed, *June 28*, 1157.
  Lunatic Asylums, Pensions Withheld from Inmates of, *July 2*, 1395.
  School Building Plans, Decision as to, *June 19*, 25.
  Valuation System, Assimilating to that of England, proposed, *June 21*, 350.
  Works Board Officials, Pensions of—Case of R. McContrey, *June 19*, 55.
Labourers (Ireland) Acts—Loans, Particulars as to, *June 19*, 24.
Meteorological Society, Work of and Grants to, *June 27*, 935.
Notts Miners' Association Rules, Decision as to, *June 26*, 778.
Railway Excess Luggage Receipts, Exceeding £2, Liability of, for Stamp Duty, *June 25*, 657.
Surveyors of Taxes, *Status*, of *June 21*, 348.

McKillop, Mr. W.
- Belfast Prison
  - Confidential Reports sent from, *June 25*, 610.
  - Governor, Service, etc., of, *June 25*, 609.
- Dog Licences, Procedure in Stamping, etc., *June 20*, 175.
- Long, Constabulary Sergeant, Reason for Transfer of, *June 20*, 152.
- Maghery Post Office, Reason for Removal of, *June 26*, 773.
- Poyntzpass Constabulary Sergeant, Religion of, *June 20*, 152.

McLaren, Mr. H. D. [Staffordshire, W.]
- Africa, South, Expediting Incoming Mails from, proposed, *June 28*, 1144.

Macnamara, Dr. T. J. [Camberwell, N.]
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 74, 76, 115, 126–128; *June 20*, 227, 245, 246; *June 25*, 669, 690–695; *June 26*, 849; *July 2*, 1470–1474; *July 3*, 1710.
  - Clause 4—Effect of Amendments, and Opportunity for Discussing, *June 25*, 665; *July 2*, 1424, 1425.
  - Voluntary Schools Contracted out, Provisions as to Efficiency and Management, *June 27*, 933, 934.

MacNeill, Mr. J. S. Swift [Donegal, S.]
- Castledoherty—Reinstatement Claim of P. Keeny, *June 27*, 942.
- Clanricarde Estate, Situation on, *June 27*, 948.
- Intermediate Education Board, Parliamentary Control over, *June 26*, 790.
- Egypt—Attack on British Officers, *July 2*, 1412.
- Great Yarmouth Election Petition, Allegations against Mr. Justice Grantham, etc. — Opportunity for Discussing Motion, *June 19*, 57.
- Magherymore, Mullynigh and Oisk Farms, Ejection Notice in respect of, *June 25*, 611.
- Natal Native Rising—Prisoners, Alleged Employment of in Kimberley Mines, *June 20*, 168; *June 21*, 357.
- Prisoners, Petitions for Release of, *June 28*, 1149, 1150.
- Registry of Titles Central Office—*Status* of Staff, *June 26*, 762.
- War Office Contracts—Stipulations as to Home Grown Produce, etc., *June 27*, 920.

MacVeagh, Mr. J. [Down, S.]
- Armagh
  - Police Force, Religion and Promotions of, *June 20*, 154.
  - Workhouse—Religious Instruction of Catholic Children, *June 20*, 154; *June 28*, 1118.

MacVeagh, Mr. J.—*cont.*
- Deaths, Annual Lists of, for Electoral Registration Purposes, *June 21*, 351.
- Great Northern (Ireland) and Midland Railways Bill—Instruction to Committee, *July 3*, 1733–1738.
- Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill, *Con.*, *June 19*, 140, 144.
- Taxes, *status* of Surveyors of, *June 21*, 348.
- Workhouse Masters and Matrons, Accommodation for Children of, *June 20*, 153.

McVeigh, Mr. C. [Donegal, E.]
- Burtonport Railway line, Inquiry into Administration of, etc., *June 25*, 591.
- War Office Meat Contracts, Effect of Change in, *June 25*, 633.
- Wilson Estate—Reinstatement Claim of M. A. Mortland, *June 20*, 149.

Macclesfield and District Tramways Bill
- *l. Rep.* July 3*, 1557.

Macedonia
- Budget Deficiency, Proposals for Meeting, by Increasing Turkish Customs Duties.
  - *Os.* Lord Newton, *July 2*, 1338, 1339, 1343; Lord Fitzmaurice, 1345, 1347; Marquess of Lansdowne, 1356–1357.
  - *Q.* Mr. Lynch; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *June 20*, 169, 170.
- Officials, Payment of Salaries of, Making Deficit good, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. Silcock; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *July 3*, 1597.
- Reform Schemes, Progress made with.
  - *Os.* Lord Newton, *July 2*, 1338–1340; Lord Fitzmaurice 1346, 1351; Marquess of Lansdowne, 1356; Marquess of Ripon, 1360.
  - *Q.* Mr. C. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *June 25*, 646.

Mackerel
- Irish Cured Fish, Adoption of Brand for, proposed.
  - *O.* Mr. Boland, *June 28*, 1214.
  - *Q.* Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 50, 51.

Madden Estate
- Reinstatement Claims
  - Kiernan, M. A., of.
    - *Q.* Mr. T. Smyth; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1384.
  - McHugh, F. M., of.
    - *Q.* Mr. T. Smyth; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 50.

Maddison, Mr. F. [Burnley]
- Women Suffragists, Disturbances created by—Arrest and Imprisonment of Miss Billington, *June 21*, 462, 463.

Maghery
Post Office, Reason for Removal of.
Q. Mr. McKillop; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 26*, 773, 774.

Magherymore, Mullynigh and Oisk Farms
Ejection Notice in respect of.
Q. Mr. MacNeill; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 611.

Magilligan Camp
Clerk in Charge of Post Office.
Q. Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 25*, 589.

Magistrates and Justices of the Peace
Ireland
Adjudication in cases of Personal Interest, Alleged.
Q. Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *June 28*, 1150.
Fees Paid on Appointment.
Qs. Mr. Condon; *As.* Mr. Cherry, *June 19*, 42, 43.
Q. Mr. O'Dowd; *A.* Sir J. Walton, *July 2*, 1378.
Fitzgerald, Mr. V., Attendances of at Petty Sessions.
Q. Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 3*, 1607.
Poor Rate, sanctioning of, Reasons for charging Fees for
Os. Lord Barnard, *June 21*, 337, 338; Earl Carrington, 338.
Scotland, Number appointed, with Names, Descriptions and Addresses, 1893–1903—Return Presented, *June 28*, 1095.

Magnus, Sir P. [London University]
University College Porter's Dog, alleged Vivisection of, *July 2*, 1417.

Mall to Charing Cross
Buildings in Spring Gardens, proposals as to.
Qs. Mr. C. Hay; *As.* Mr. Harcourt, *July 2*, 1428, 1429.
New Roadway, Reason for Delay in opening.
Q. Mr. Steadman; *A.* Mr. Harcourt, *June 25*, 618.

Malone, Col., Estate of
Sale Proposals for.
Q. Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27*, 937.

Malta
Protestant Mission Services held at Theatre Royal — Correspondence between Governor, and Archbishop-Bishop, Presented, *June 26*, 747; *June 27*, 915.
Qs. Mr. Sloane, Mr. Silcock, Mr. T. L. Corbett; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *June 19*, 35, 36.
Religious Processions, Regulations as to.
Q. Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 26*, 766.

Manchester
Rateable Value and Municipal Representation, inequality in.
Q. Mr. H. J. Tennant; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 21*, 348, 349.

Manchester Churches Bill
c. Rep. June 28*, 1093.
Con., July 3*, 1590.

Manchester Corporation Bill
l. Rep. June 25*, 561.

Manchester Estate
Reinstatement of S. Bainey.
Qs. Mr. Sloan; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *Jun 21*, 377, 378.

Mansfield, Mr. H. R. [Lincoln, Spalding]
Charity Commission—Capital invested and Agricultural Land sold by, during last ten years, *June 19*, 42.
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 27*, 1021; *July 2*, 1484–1486.
South African War Official History—inclusion of War Stores Commission Report, *June 19*, 33.

Marble Hill
Sale of, reinstatement Claims, etc.
Q. Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1100, 1101.

Marks, Mr. H. H. [Kent, Thanet]
Canned Foodstuffs
Chicago Factories, Report on, by British Consul, *June 26*, 767.
Inspection, Proposals for, *June 25*, 620.
Customs Inspectors—Promotion System, *June 25*, 621.
"Pass of Killiecrankie," Charges against Captain, etc. Decision as to Inquiry, *June 26*, 775, 776.

Marnham, Mr. F. J. [Surrey, Chertsey]
Lunatics, Criminal, Procedure in discharging, *June 27*, 930.
Vagrants, Proposals for dealing with, *June 27*, 933.

Marriages Provisional Order Bill
l. Royal Assent, *June 22*, 465.

Married Woman's Property Bill
l. Report from Select Committee, *June 25*, 564.

Marine Biological Association
Constitution and Work of
Os. Earl of Onslow, *June 25*, 568–570.

Martinique
Trade Report Presented, *June 25*, 563.

Maryport Harbour Bill
c. 3R.* *June 21*, 339.

Mason, Mr. A. E. W. [Coventry]
Colonial Vote, Opportunity for discussing, *June 20*, 195.

Mason, Mr. J. F. [Windsor]
Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 22*, 513.

Massie, Dr. J. [Wiltshire, Cricklade]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 20*, 223–225.

Massy Estate
Sale Negotiations for
Q. Mr. Sheehan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 21*, 380.

Masterman, Mr. C. F. G. [West Ham, N.]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 20*, 242, 243; *July 2*, 1461–1464.

Mayo, Earl of
Army
Meat Contracts — Substitution of "Home killed" for "Home-bred" beef, in Specifications, *June 28*, 1088–1090.
Qualifying Examination, Objections to date fixed for, *June 29*, 1239, 1240.

Meagher, Mr. M. [Kilkenny, N.]
Jurors' and Voters' Lists, System of preparing, *June 25*, 603.
Kilkenny District Lunatic Asylum—Number of Patients, Cost, etc., *June 25*, 599.
Poor Law
Contracts and Tenders, Powers of Guardians as to, *June 25*, 604.
Dispensary Doctors, Salaries of, *June 25*, 603.
Relief by way of Loan, Powers of Guardians as to, *June 25*, 598.
Rate Collection System, Irish, Revision of, proposed, *June 25*, 599.

Meat
Canned, *see* Canned Foodstuffs.

Meat Marking (Ireland) Bill
c. 1r.* *June 27*, 959.

Meath, Earl of
Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill, *Com.*, *June 22*, 476.
Union Jack on Victoria Tower, Lowering to Half-mast on Death of Premier of Self-governing Colonies—Case of Late Mr. Seddon, *June 28*, 1084–1087.

Medical Officers of Health
Free Expression of Scientific Opinion, Proposals for Safeguarding.
Q. Mr. Lupton; *A.* Mr. Burns, *July 2*, 1422.

Meehan, Mr. P. A. [Queen's County, Leix]
Land Commission—Qualifications of Mr. Wilkinson, *June 27*, 944.
Local Government Board—Qualifications etc., of Mr. Monteith, *June 27*, 942, 943.
Luggacurran Evicted Tenants, Superintendence of Houses Erected for, *June 27*, 950.

Members of Parliament
Free Postage and Travelling Passes for, proposed.
Qs. Mr. Field; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *July 3*, 1610.

Menzies, Mr. W. [Lanark, S.]
Ceylon Pearl Fisheries, Conditions of Leasing, *July 2*, 1407.

Merchandise Marks Act
Amendment in Accordance with Committee Report, proposed.
Q. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *July 2*, 1421.
Effect of.
Q. Mr. Paul; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 20*, 172.

Merchant Shipping
[*For* particular Vessels, *see their names.*]
Officers
Certificates Granted to Captains and Officers—Practice in New Zealand and Canada.
Qs. Lord Muskerry; *July 2*, 1336; Earl of Granard, 1336, 1337.
Salaries of, Practice of Owners as to Withholding, Necessity for Legislation.
Qs. Lord Muskerry, *June 25*, 575–578; Earl of Granard, 577.
Rafts towed across the Pacific, Danger to Shipping from.
Qs. Lord Muskerry, Earl of Granard, *July 2*, 1337.
Statutory Rules and Orders, Revision of, proposed.
Q. Mr. J. D. White; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *July 3*, 1601.
Tonnage Measurement of Steamships—Report of Committee of Inquiry Presented, *June 28*, 1084, 1095.

Mersey Docks and Harbour Board Bill
l. Commons' Amendments *Con.* June 21*, 297.
Royal Assent, *June 22*, 465.

Mersey Railway Bill
l. Royal Assent, *June 22*, 465.

Merthyr Tydfil Gas Bill
l. *Rep.* June 22*, 466.
3r.* *June 26*, 746.
c. Lords Amendts, *Con.* July 2*, 1370.

Meteorological Office
Work of and Grants to.
Q. Mr. Young; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 27*, 935.

Metropolitan District Railway Bill
l. 2R.* *June 19*, 3.
*Rep.** *June 25*, 561.
3R.* *July 3*, 1558.

Metropolitan Police Commission Bill
l. 3R. *June 19*, 7.
l. Royal Assent, *June 22*, 465.
Clerks' notes of Proceedings, Communicating to the Royal Commission.
Os. Earl Russell, *June 19*, 10; Marquess of Salisbury, 14; Marquess of Ripon, 14, 15.
Scope and Terms of Reference of, Possibility of Extending.
Os. Earl Russell, *June 19*, 8–11; Earl Beauchamp, 12; Marquess of Salisbury, 13, 14; Marquess of Ripon, 15.

Metropolitan Railway Bill
l. 2R.* *June 19*, 3.
l. *Rep.** *June 25*, 561.
3R.* *July 2*, 1334.

Metropolitan Water Board Bill
l. 2R.* *June 22*, 466.
*Rep.** *July 3*, 1557.

Meysey-Thompson, Mr. E. C. [Stafford, Handsworth]
Ex-soldiers, Employment of, as rural Postmen, *June 21*, 459.

Middlemore, Mr. J. T. [Birmingham]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June* 19, 78, 90; *June 26*, 861, 862; *July 2*, 1469; *July 3*, 1671, 1672.
National Gallery Trustees, Powers of, to refuse Chantrey Bequest Pictures, *June 20*, 163.

Middlesex County Council (General Powers) Bill
l. 2R.* *June 19*, 3.

Midland Railway Bill
l. Report from Select Committee, *June 29*, 1237.

Mildmay, Mr. F. B. [Devon, Totnes]
Start Bay Naval Firing Practice—Alleged forcible Removal of Fishermen, etc., *June 26*, 753.

Militia
Ballykinlar Camp, Meat Supplied to
Q. Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 21*, 356.
Northumberland Artillery, Headquarters of.
Q. Sir R. Hobart; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 28*, 1109.

Militia—*cont.*
Officers' Travelling Expenses, Payment of, proposed.
Q. Sir R. Hobart; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 21*, 354.

Millom
Telephone Extension to, proposed.
Q. Mr. Fullerton; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 25*, 651, 652.

Millport
Marine Biological Station—alleged Intention to Cancel Teacher's Classes.
Q. Mr. Gulland; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *July 2*, 1429.

Miners' Associations
Rules of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Associations, Reason for making Distinction between.
Q. Mr. Richardson; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 26*, 778.

Mines
Welsh Mine Inspectors—Qualifications of Mr. Atkinson, etc.
Qs. Mr. Ll. Williams, Mr. Abraham, Mr. Brace, Col. Herbert; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Speaker, *June 26*, 770–773.

Mitchell-Thompson, Mr. W. [Lanark, N.W.]
Glasgow Post Office Medical Officer, Proposals as to, *June 19*, 39.
Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 22*, 529; *June 29*, 1290, 1291.
Leith, South—Manse Repairs Assessment Case, *June 26*, 779.

Molteno, Mr. P. A. [Dumfriesshire]
Transvaal, Trade Routes to the Coast.
Nature of *modus vivendi* with Portugal, etc., *June 25*, 643, 644.
Statistics as to, *June 25*, 614.

Monastic and Conventual Institutions Bill
c. *Intro.*, *June 26*, 799.
Leave to Introduce refused, *June 26*, 802.

Mond, Mr. A. [Chester]
Alcohol for Industrial purposes, Legislative Proposals as to, *June 25*, 622.
Jute Cultivation in India, Encouragement of, proposed, *June 25*, 622.
Transvaal, Chinese Labourers
Control Commission, Constitution of, *June 21*, 343.
Crimes—Measures for Protection of white People, *June 21*, 343; *June 28*, 1129.
Nourse Mine Riot, Cause of, *June 21*, 343; *June 28*, 1129.

Money Orders
See under Post Office

Monkswell, Lord
Education Board Provisional Orders Confirmation (Kesteven, etc.) Bill, 3R., *June 25*, 562.

Montenegro
Turkish Outrages on Frontier, Information s to.
Q. Mr. Alden; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *July 3*, 1618.

Montgomeryshire
Postal Deliveries in, Increasing Number of, proposed.
Os. Mr. Rees, *June 21*, 455.

Mooney, Mr. J. J. [Newry]
Great Northern Railway Bill—Motion for Third Reading, Objection to, *June 25*, 743.

Moray Firth
Trawling Appeal, Progress made with.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *July 2*, 1430.

Morgan, Mr. G. H. [Cornwall, Truro]
Fishery interests of Cornish Crabbers, Protection of, *June 25*, 654.

Morgan, Mr. J. L. [Carmarthen, W.]
Hyde Park Fountains, C st of, etc., *June 20*, 157.
Ordnance Maps, Charge for, *June 20*, 160.
Railway Excess Luggage Receipts Exceeding £2, Liability of, for Stamp Duty, *June 25*, 657.

Morley, Rt. Hon. J.—*Secretary of State for India* [Montrose Burghs]
Appointments created during last seven Years, etc., *June 27*, 926.
Army
  Militia Service in South African War, *July 2*, 1380.
  Native Assaults on British Soldiers in the Himalayas, *July 2*, 1395.
Assam—Alleged Execution of Reprieved Prisoner, *July 3*, 1616, 1617.
Bengal, Eastern
  Backergunge—Alleged Irregularity in Disposing of Criminal cases, *June 21*, 350; *July 2*, 1381.
  Condition of—Inquiry proposed, *June 20*, 166.
  Partition of Province—Tabling Papers as to Local Opinion, proposed, *June 27*, 928.
  Religious Processions, Restrictions on, *June 21*, 349; *June 27*, 927, 928; *July 3*, 1617, 1618.
  Schoolboys, Operation of Orders as to Re-admission of, etc., *June 21*, 360.

Morley, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
Bengal and Bombay Civil Service Provident and Pension Funds, Information as to, *June 25*, 623.
Budget, Date of taking, *June 28*, 1097.
Education
  Elementary, Expenditure on, *July 2*, 1381.
  Technical Expenditure on, *June 28*, 1096.
Excise Administration Committee Report, Date of Circulating, *June 27*, 927.
Government Departments—Increase of Pay of Superior Officers during last four Years, *June 27*, 926.
Jute cultivation, Encouragement of, proposed, *June 25*, 623.
Services—Resolutions Issued as to Grant of Exchange Compensation Allowance to European Officers, *June 26*, 757.

Morocco
Algeciras Act, Accession of Sultan to.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *July 2*, 1415.

Morpeth, Lord [Birmingham, S.]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 121–123; *June 20*, 217; *June 27*, 962, 998, 999.

Morrell, Mr. P. [Oxon, Henley]
Agriculture Vote, Opportunity for Discussing, *June 27*, 955.
Dogs Bill, Date of Taking, *June 27*, 955.

Morse, Mr. L. L. [Wilts, Wilton]
Tidworth Barracks—Scavenging Tenders, *June 27*, 921.

Morton, Mr. A. C. [Sutherland]
Army
  Inspector-General of Forces, Duties of, *June 21*, 356.
  Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, Reduction in, proposed, *July 2*, 1405.
Ascot Police Force, Payment for, *June 28*, 1139.
Connaught, Duke of, Reason for Visit of to Sweden, *June 21*, 356.
Crofters Acts Amendment Bill, proposals as to, *June 21*, 386.
Intermediate Education Board, Ireland, Rules for 1906-7—Resolutions of House of Commons as to, Refusal of Board to carry out, *July 2*, 1549.
Great Northern Railway Bill, *Con.*, *June 25*, 737.
  Motion for Third Reading, Objection to, *June 25*, 743.

[*cont.*

Morton, Mr. A. C.—*cont.*
Post Office
Newspaper Rates to Canada, Decision as to, *June 21,* 420.
Penny Post, Universal, Possibility of Establishing, *June 21,* 419.
Uniforms, Contract Rates Paid for, *June 21,* 420.
Soldiers' and Sailors' Families' Association—Alleged Exclusion of Families of Officers risen from the Ranks, *June 21,* 355.
Sutherlandshire, Colonisation of, proposed, *June 21,* 421.
Sutherland Farms turned into Deer Forest, *June 19,* 42; *July 3,* 1631–1633.

Motors
Accidents from, in London Area, during May.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 25,* 647.
Commission Report, Date of Presenting.
Q. Mr. Younger; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 29,* 1255.
Q. Mr. Everett; *A.* Mr. Burns, *July 2,* 1423.
Dust Nuisance, Proposals for dealing with.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 27,* 918.
Omnibuses
Speed etc., Regulation of, Proposals as to.
Qs. Mr. Chiozza-Money, Mr. Myer, Mr. Flynn; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *July 3,* 1623, 1624.
Weight and Size, etc., Regulations as to.
Q. Mr. W. F. D. Smith; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *July 3,* 1596.
Traffic, Proposals for Regulating.
Q. Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 25,* 648.

Mount Shannon Estate
Grazing Lands, Disposal of.
Os. Mr. Duffy, *June 28,* 1185; Mr. Bryce, 1205.

Muckross
Barytes Mines, Inspection of and Report on, proposed.
Q. Mr. E. Barry; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26,* 786.

Mullaghgarrow
Turbary Rights of Purchasing Tenants.
Q. Mr. Dolan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25,* 595.

Municipal Corporations Bill
l. 2R., *June 19,* 6.
Com., June 22, 469.
Report from Standing Committee, *June 26,* 748.
Rep. June 28,* 1084.
3R.* *June 29,* 1239.

Murnaghan, Mr. G. [Tyrone Mid.]
Carrickmore.
Orange Procession, Prohibition of, proposed, *June 29,* 1257.
Revision Court for, proposed, *June 25,* 602.

Murphy, Mr. J. [Kerry, E.]
Agriculture Department Schemes, Local Contributions to—Particulars given in Return, *June 25,* 628.
Congested Districts Board—District Representative from Kerry, Appointment of, proposed, *June 28,* 1219.
Crimean War—Case of C. Brosnihan, *June 25,* 613.
Divisions—Procedure in Cases of Voting in Wrong Lobby, *June 19,* 58.
Kenmare Estate—Reinstatement of D. Shea, *June 19,* 48, 49.
Kerry
Bog, Examination and Repair of Outlet, proposed, *June 28,* 1218, 1219.
Lace Industry in, Development of, proposed, *June 28,* 1218.
Killarney Fair Rent Appeals—Reason for Exclusion of Cases from List, *June 28,* 1107.
McCartie Estate—Reinstatement of D. and J. Healy, *June 20,* 184.
National School Teachers, Capitation Grants, Payment of, *June 20,* 184.
Scartaglen School—Delay in Granting Good Service Increments, alleged, *July 2,* 1399.

Musical Copyright Bill
c. Com., June 26, 909; *June 27,* 1080; *June 28,* 1236.

Muskerry, Lord
Greenwich Observatory, erection of London County Council Power Station near—Intervention of Board of Trade, proposed, *June 21,* 336.
Merchant Shipping
Captains, Salaries of, Practice of Owners as to withholding, Necessity for Legislation, *June 25,* 575–578.
Officers, Certificates Granted to—Practice in New Zealand and Canada, *July 2,* 1336.
Rafts Towed Across the Pacific, Danger to Shipping from, *July 2,* 1337.
Russia, Visit of British Fleet during Manœuvres, *July 2,* 1363.

Myer, Mr. H. [Lambeth, N.]
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *July 2*, 1458.
- Motor Omnibus Traffic, Regulation of, *July 3*, 1624.
- Natal Native Rising—Report, etc., of Court Martial on twelve Natives, *June 25*, 634.
- Tramcars, Electric, Accidents to, on steep Gradients—Inquiry into Brake System, proposed, *June 27*, 931.
- Transvaal, Chinese Labourers—Repatriation Notification, Oral Delivery of, proposed, *June 28*, 1125.

Nannetti, Mr. J. P. [Dublin, College Green]
- Post Office
  - Defaulter Sheets—Rule as to making Entries, *July 2*, 1377.
  - Mount Pleasant Sorting Office—Case of Mr. Carmody, *July 2*, 1377.

Nantenan
- Sheehy, Mrs., Proposal as to Loan to.
  Q. Mr. O'Shaughnessy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 190.

Natal
- Native Administration—Proposals as to Commission.
  Q. Mr. Byles; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 25*, 643.
- Native Rising
  - Bambaata, Effect of Death of.
    Q. Mr. Byles; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 20*, 168, 169.
  - Court Martial on twelve Natives—Date of Publication of Evidence.
    Q. Mr. Mackarness; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *July 2*, 1410.
  - Death Sentence on Natives, Tabling Report on, proposed.
    Qs. Mr. J. R. Macdonald, Mr. Myer; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *June 25*, 634.
  - Martial Law, Termination of, proposed.
    Qs. Mr. Byles; *As.* Mr. Churchill, Mr. Speaker, *June 20*, 169.
  - Prisoners, alleged Employment of, in Kimberley Diamond Mines.
    Qs. Mr. Byles, Mr. MacNeill, Mr. Ward; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *June 20*, 168.
    Qs. Mr. Jowett, Mr. MacNeill, Mr. Byles; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *June 21*, 356, 357.
    Q. Mr. J. R. Macdonald; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 25*, 613, 614.

National Assurance Company of Ireland and Yorkshire Fire and Life Insurance Company Bill
- *l.* Royal Assent, *June 22*, 465.

National Debt
- Position of.
  Os. Lord Welby, *June 21*, 310, 311.
- Reduction of, Provision for.
  Os. Lord Welby, *June 21*, 308–310.

National Expenditure
- *See* Revenue and Expenditure.

National Gallery
- Chantrey Bequest Pictures, Powers of Trustees to reject.
  Q. Mr. Middlemore; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 20*, 163.
- Director, Terms of appointing.
  Q. Mr. Horniman; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 25*, 662.

National School Teachers, Ireland
- *See under* Education, Ireland.

Navy
- *First Lord*—Rt. Hon. Lord Tweedmouth.
- *Financial Secretary* — Rt. Hon. E. Robertson.
- Battleships—Return, alleged Inclusion of defective Vessels in.
  Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *July 2*, 1392.
- "County" Class Cruisers, Cost of re-arming, etc.
  Q. Mr. Neild; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *June 20*, 156, 157.
- Dockyards
  - Chatham
    - Area and value of.
      Q. Mr. Jenkins; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *July 2*, 1401.
    - Discharges, Decision as to.
      Q. Mr. E. H. Lamb; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *June 20*, 157.
    - Transfer of Workmen, Decision as to.
      Q. Mr. E. H. Lamb; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *July 2*, 1376.
  - Wages, Decision as to.
    Q. Mr. Jenkins; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *July 2*, 1401.
- Education and Training
  - Boatswains and Carpenters, Utilisation of, under new Scheme.
    Q. Mr. J. W. Benn; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *June 21*, 345.
- Expenditure, Reduction in, Possibility of effecting.
  Os. Viscount Goschen, *June 21*, 312; Lord Joicey, 314.
- Eyesight Tests, Regulations as to.
  Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *June 19*, 32, *June 25*, 589, 590, 630.

[*cont*

Navy—*cont.*

"Montagu"

Repair at Chatham, proposed.
Q. Mr. E. H. Lamb; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *June 20*, 157.

Proposals as to salving, etc.
Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *July 2*, 1402.

Ordnance Department—Decision as to Pension System.
Q. Mr. J. W. Benn; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *June 19*, 25.

Pension of G. Howe.
Q. Mr. Courthope; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *June 20*, 147.

Prince of Wales," Progress of Repairs to.
Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *June 25*, 617.

Promotion, System under new Scheme.
Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *June 26*, 763.

"Ramillies" Progress of Repairs, to.
Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *June 25*, 617.

"Renown," Date of Shipping Secondary Armament to.
Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *June 25*, 617.

Rosyth, Proposals as to.
Qs. Mr. Younger; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, *July 2*, 1401, 1402.

Russian Ports, Visit to, *see under* Russia.

Shipbuilding Programme

Effect of Restrictions on Overtime in Dockyards.
Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *July 2*, 1400.

Explanatory Memorandum Presented, *June 28*, 1084, 1096.

Wages and Conditions of Service, Inquiry into, proposed.
Q. Mr. J. W. Benn; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *June 20*, 156.

Works Loan System, Proposals as to Abolition of.
Os. Viscount St. Aldwyn, *June 21*, 303.

Nettlebed and District Commons (Preservation) Bill
l. 3R.* *June 22*, 466.
c. 1R.* *June 25*, 583.

New Inn
Grant to W. O'Neill.
Q. Mr. J. Roche: *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 3*, 1635.

New Mills Urban District Council Bill
l. Royal Assent, *June 22*, 465.

New York Mutual Reserve Company
Reason for Withdrawal of English Deposit of, etc.
Qs. Mr. Boland, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Healy; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *July 3*, 1326, 1327.

New Zealand
Merchant Service Officers, Practice as to Granting Gertificates to.
Os. Lord Muskerry, Earl of Granard, *July 2*, 1336.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Electric Supply Bill
c. 2R.* *July 2*, 1370.

Newhaven and Dieppe
Passenger Rates Charged by London, Brighton and South Coast Railway Company.
Q. Sir J. Brunner; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 29*, 1255, 1256.

Newman Estate
O'Callgahan, T., Case of.
Q. Mr. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 178.

Newport Corporation Bill
c. Report from Police and Sanitary Committee, *July 3*, 1590.

Newport Harbour Commissioners Bill
c. *Rep.** *June 22*, 494.
*Con.** *June 29*, 1248.
3R.* *July 3*, 1590.

Newton, Lord
Baghdad Railway—Turkish Guarantee to Germany, British Policy, etc., *July 2*, 1342, 1343.

Macedonia

Budget Deficiency, Proposals for Meeting, *July 2*, 1338, 1339, 1343.

Reform Schemes, Progress made with, *July 2*, 1338–1340.

Servia, Conditions of Renewing Diplomatic Relations with, *June 22*, 487–490, 493.

Turkey—Customs Tariff, proposed Increase in.

Conditions of British Government Sanction, Effect on British Trade, etc., *July 2*, 1338, 1341.

Papers Relating to—Tabling, proposed, *July 2*, 1338, 1360.

Newtownard's Urban District Council Bill
c. Report from Police and Sanitary Committee, *June 26*, 749.
*Con.** *July 3*, 1590.

Nice
Trade Report Presented, *June 28*, 1083.

Nield, Mr. H. [Middlesex, Ealing]
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 88–90 ; *June 20*, 265, 266 ; *June 27*, 1024.
- Navy—"County" Class Cruisers, Cost of Re-arming, etc., *June 20*, 156.
- Transvaal Native Labour, Statistics as to, *June 20*, 155.

Nigeria
- Liquor Traffic, Proposals as to Restrictions on.
  - *Qs.* Mr. J. C. Wason ; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *June 28*, 1131.
- Military Operations in, Reason for Unrest among Natives, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. Lonsdale ; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *July 2*, 1409, 1410.

Nolan, Mr. J. [Louth, S.]
- Roodstown—Case of M. Duffy, *July 3*, 1636.

Norfolk
- Inclosures of Common Land (1845–1899)—Return Ordered, *June 29*, 1252.

Norfolk, Earldom of
- Mowbray, Lord, Claim of, *July 2*, 1333.

North-East Lincolnshire Water Bill
- *l.* Royal Assent, *June 22*, 465.

North-East London Railway Bill
- *l.* 2R.* *June 19*, 3.
- *Rep.** *July 3*, 1557.

North Sea
- Fisheries Investigation—Proceedings of International Council.
  - National Sea Fisheries Association Non-representation of.
    - *Os.* Lord Heneage, *June 25*, 572.
  - Objects of the Council, Results of Work done, etc.
    - *Os.* Earl of Onslow, *June 25*, 564–567, 569.
  - Reports of British Delegates—Tabling, proposed.
    - *Os.* Earl of Onslow, *June 25*, 564, 575 ; Earl Carrington, 571.
  - Representation of Great Britain, Strengthening, proposed.
    - *Os.* Earl of Onslow, *June 25*, 567 ; Lord Heneage, 573.
  - Scientific and Statistical Information, Failure to Obtain.
    - *Os.* Earl of Onslow, *June 25*, 565–570 ; Lord Heneage, 574.
  - Termination of Agreement, Question of Renewal, etc.
    - *Os.* Earl of Onslow, *June 25*, 565, 566 ; Earl Carrington. 571 ; Lord Heneage, 572, 575.

North Sussex Gas & Water Bill
- *l.* Royal Assent, *June 22*, 465.

North West London Railway Bill
- *l.* 2R.* *June 19*, 3.

North and South Shields Electric Railway Bill
- *l.* *Rep.** *June 25*, 561.
- 3R.* *June 28*, 1082.

Northumberland
- Sheep Dipping Order, Operation of.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Trevelyan ; *As.* Sir E. Strachey, *June 20*, 174.

Norwich Union Life Insurance Society Bill
- *l.* Royal Assent, *June 22*, 465.

Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Tramways Bill
- *c.* *Rep.** *June 21*, 340.
- *Con.** *June 27*, 913.
- 3R.* *July 2*, 1370.

Nunburnholme, Lord
- Russia — British Fleet, Visit of during manœuvres, *July 2*, 1364.

Nurses Registration and Qualification Bill
- *c.* R.* *July 2*, 1436.

Nussey, Mr. T. W. [Pontefract]
- Education, (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 20*, 260, 261 ; *June 26*, 862.

O'Brien, Mr. K. E. [Tipperary, Mid.]
- Castle Iney—Turbary rights of Purchasing Tenants, *June 25*, 607.

O'Brien, Mr. W. [Cork]
- Congested Districts Board, work of—Abolition of Board, proposed, *June 28*, 1210, 1211.
- Labourers (Ireland) Bill—Standing Committee on Law, Procedure in Appointing Additional Member, *June 27*, 953.
- Land Purchase, Administration of Acts etc.—Commission of Inquiry into, proposed, *June 28*, 1210, 1211.

O'Connor, Mr. Jas. [Wicklow, W.]
- Dungannon Post Office, Scale of Pay in, *June 19*, 21.
- Fitzwilliam Estate, Sale of—Proceedings Against Tenants for Non-payment of Interest, *June 21*, 379 ; *June 25*, 597.
- Postmen
  - Ex-telegraph Messengers, Vacancies Reserved for, *June 21*, 342.

O'Connor, Mr. T. P. [Liverpool, Scotland]
- Education—Intermediate Board Rules, 1906–7, Resolution of House of Commons, refusal of Board to carry out, *July 2*, 1551.
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 25*, 726–729; *June 26*, 877–879; *June 27*, 1014–1016.
- Monastic and Conventual Institutions Bill—Motion for leave to Introduce, *June 26*, 800–802.
- Musical Copyright Bill, *Com.*, *June 26*, 909, 910, 911, 912; *June 27*, 1080.

O'Donel Estate
- Sale negotiations, Progress of.
  - *Os.* Dr. Ambrose, *June 28*, 1175, 1176; Mr. Bryce, 1204.

O'Donnell, Mr. C. J. [Newington, Walworth]
- Catholic Elementary Schools in certain cities, Grants and Rate Aid to, *July 2*, 1394.
- Central Telegraph Office—Reason for Withholding Increments of Certain Overseers, etc., *June 26*, 752.

O'Donnell, Mr. T. [Kerry, W.]
- Barrow Holdings, Prevention of Sand Drifting on, etc., *June 21*, 373, 374.
- Education
  - Intermediate Board Rules, 1906–7
    - Date of Presenting, *June 25*, 601.
    - Delay in Decision as to, Alleged, *June 20*, 178, 180, 182; *June 25*, 605.
    - Parliamentary Control over Board etc., *June 26*, 759; *June 27*, 939.
    - Withdrawal of, and Substitution of Amended Rules proposed, *July 2*, 1539, 1540.
  - National School Teachers—Dismissals, etc. (1896–1906), *June 29*, 1252.
- Housing of the Working Classes— Interest charged on Loans for, *June 21*, 374, 375; *June 26*, 783.
- Irish Language, Teaching of, in Schools—Placing on an equality with other Languages, proposed, *July 2*, 1539.
- Kerry
  - Condition of, Delay in Dealing with Congested Areas, etc., *June 28*, 1185–1188.
  - Evicted Tenants, Inquiry into Cases of, *July 2*, 1385.
- Parliamentary Resolutions, Power of Boards to Refuse to adopt, *June 25*, 602.
- Trade Statistics, Irish, Decision as to Publishing, *June 20*, 193.
- Tralee Post Office, Date of Building, *July 2*, 1431.

O'Dowd, Mr. J. [Sligo, S.]
- De Freyne Estate—Necessity for Road in Chasefield District, *June 21*, 378.
- Land Act of 1903, Failure of, Necessity for Inquiry into, etc., *June 28*, 1172.
- Magistrates, Fees on Appointment of, *July 2*, 1378.
- Phibbs Estate—Sale Proposals for Tubbercurry Portion, *June 28*, 1154, 1155.
- Sligo, Estates sold, Price given, etc., *July 2*, 1383.
- War Office Meat Contracts—Effect of new Rules on Irish Agricultural Interests, *June 19*, 33.

O'Grady, Mr. J. [Leeds, E.]
- Africa, Portuguese East—Railway rate on Goods for the Transvaal, *June 20*, 166.
- Ejectment Orders, Uniform time for, proposed, *June 21*, 363.
- Government Contracts
  - Revision of Fair Wages Clause, proposed, *July 2*, 1434.
  - Waygood & Co., Conditions of Employment, *June 21*, 370.
- India
  - Backergunge—Alleged Irregularity in Disposing of Criminal Cases, *July 2*, 1381.
  - Bengal, Eastern
    - Condition of—Inquiry, proposed, *June 20*, 166.
    - Processions, etc., Restrictions on *July 3*, 1617, 1618.
  - Education, Expenditure on, *July 2*, 1381.
- Sweating, Inquiry into, proposed, *July 3*, 1636, 1637.
- Women's Suffrage Disturbance in Cavendish Square— Sentence on Miss Billington, etc., *June 25*, 648.

O'Grady Estate
- Sale Negotiations as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 29.

O'Hara Estate
- Memorial from Tenantry, Decision as to
  - *Q.* Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 605.

O'Kelly, Mr. C. [Mayo, N.]
- Connaught
  - Condition of—Failure of Land Act, etc., *June 28*, 1161–1164.
  - Land Sales in, Allegations against Landlords, etc., *June 28*, 1162–1164.
  - Scheduling all Counties in, as Congested Areas, *June 28*, 1166–1168.

[*cont.*

O'Kelly, Mr. C.—*cont.*
Land Purchase
Administration of Acts, etc.—Commission of Inquiry into, proposed, *June 28*, 1169–1171.
Compulsory Powers to Congested Districts Board, proposed, *June 28*, 1164–1166.

O'Kelly, Mr. J. [Roscommon, N.]
De Freyne Estate—Construction of road to Sheepwalk, *July 2*, 1383.
Housing of the Working Classes in Small Towns, Application of Labourers Act to, proposed, *June 25*, 627.
Roscommon—Reinstatement Applications, *June, 25*, 592.

O'Mara, Mr. J. [Kilkenny, S.]
Expiring Laws Continuance Bill, Acts to be included in, *June 27*, 954, 955.
Glebe Loans Act, 1870, Amount issued under, *June 19*, 24.
Labourers (Ireland) Acts—Loans, Particulars as to, *June 19*, 23.
Thomastown Union Evicted Tenants, Claims of, *June 28*, 1098.
Walsh Estate, Purchase Proposals for, *July 2*, 1386.

O'Shaughnessy, Mr. P. J. [Limerick, W.]
Curraghlahan—Re-instatement Claim of W. O'Brien, *June 26*, 788.
Glin, Knight of—Re-instatements on Estate of, *June 20*, 191.
Limerick Evicted Tenants, Applications from, *June 20*, 191.
Nantenan—Decision as to Loan for Mrs. Sheehy, *June 20*, 190.
Raheen and Ballinaguile Croagh—Re-instatement of W. Ryan & O. & J. Sheehy, *June 20*, 190.
Shelton Estate—Re-instatement of J. Murphy & L. O'Connell, *June 20*, 189.

O'Shee, Mr. J. J. [Waterford, W.]
Cork City Railways and Works Bill, 3r., *June 26*, 891–893.
Dungarvan—Construction of Causeway to Cunnigar, proposed, *June 19*, 31.

Onslow, Earl of
Agricultural Institutions, Possibility of increasing Government Grants to, *June 25*, 581.
Ground Game Bill, 2r., *July 3*, 1564.
Marine Biological Association, Constitution and Work of, *June 25*, 568–570.
North Sea Fisheries Investigation, Proceedings of International Council, etc., *June 25*, 564–570.

Open Spaces Bill
c. Report from Standing Committee on Law, *June 28*, 1159.

Ordnance Maps
Charge for.
Q. Mr. L. Morgan; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *June 20*, 160.
Issue of, on Scale of two Inches to the Mile, proposed.
Q. Mr. G. Greenwood; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *June 21*. 347.

Ordnance Survey
Seventh Division, Work of and Proposals as to.
Q. Mr. J. M. Robertson; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *June 21*, 346.

Osborne
Report of House Governor and Medical Superintendent, Printed *July 2*, 1335, 1373.

Oxfordshire
Pupil Teachers' Centre, Reason for Closing.
Q. Mr. Yoxall; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *June 26*, 755.

Pacific
Rafts of Logs towed across, Danger to Shipping from.
Os. Lord Muskerry, Earl of Granard, *July 2*, 1337.

Paraguay
Trade Report Presented, *June 22*, 468.

Parker, Sir G. [Gravesend]
Accrington—Decision as to Hyndburn Park School, *July 2*, 1423.
Africa, South—Opportunity for Discussing Self-government Proposals, *June 25*, 665.
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 81–84; *June 20*, 214; *June 27*, 969, 988.
Post Office
Newspaper Rates to Canada, Decision as to, *June 21*, 406–409.
Permanent Commission to deal with Wages and Conditions of Service, Establishment of, proposed, *June 21*, 406.
Transvaal
Chinese Labour—Corporal Punishment, Charges against Mr. Jamieson, *July 2*, 1406.
Native Labour, Facilities for Recruiting, *July 2*, 1409.

Parliament
- House of Commons
  - Letter Boxes, Indicators for, proposed. *Q.* Mr. Clough; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *July 3*, 1630.
  - Members of Parliament, *see that title.*
  - Ventilation.
    - Complaints as to bad air. *Qs.* Mr. Dillon; *As.* Mr. Harcourt, *June 21*, 371.
    - Report and Recommendations of Committee Presented, *June 22*, 469; *June 25*, 586.
- House of Lords
  - Offices—Report of Select Committee, *con.* June 22*, 469.
  - Representative Peers for Ireland. Graves, Lord, Claim of, *July 2*, 1333; *July 3*, 1557.
  - Took the Oath
    - Castlemaine, Lord, *June 29*, 1237.
    - Chaworth, Lord, *June 22*, 465.
    - Wigan, Lord, *June 21*, 297.
- Houses of
  - Union Jack on Victoria Tower, Lowering to Half-Mast on Death of Premier of self-Governing Colonies, proposed—Case of late Mr. Seddon.
    - *Os.* Earl of Meath, *June 28*, 1084–1087; Earl of Liverpool, 1087; Lord Stanmore, 1088.
- Office of Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod—Report from Select Committee, Presented, *June 26*, 747.

Parliamentary Elections
- Attercliffe, Bodmin, and Worcester, *see under* Sheffield, Cornwall, and Worcester respectively.

Parliamentary Elections Bill
- c. 1R.* *July 2*, 1436.

Parliamentary Procedure
- Divisions
  - Members Voting in Wrong Lobby, Procedure in Cases of. *Qs.* Mr. Murphy, Mr. V. Kennedy; *As.* Mr. Speaker, *June 19*, 58, 59.
  - Tellers, Delay in Proceeding to Doors of Lobbies, alleged Infringement of Rules of the House. *Os.* Mr. S. Evans, Mr. L. Hardy, Mr. Chairman, *June 20*, 289.
- Select Committee, Date of next Meeting of. *Q.* Mr. Blake; *A.* Sir H. Fowler, *June 20*, 158.
- Speaker's Rulings, *see* Speaker.

Parliamentary Resolutions
- Boards deriving authority, etc., from Exchequer, Power to refuse to adopt Resolutions. *Q.* Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 602.

Partry
- School, Inspector's Report on. *Q.* Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 26*, 792, 793.

"Pass of Killiecrankie"
- Apprentices, Cruel Treatment of, Charges against Captain—Decision as to Inquiry. *Qs.* Mr. H. H. Marks; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 26*, 775, 776.

Patents
- Annual Report of Patent Office (1905), Statement in *Q.* Mr. J. D. White; *A.* Mr. Lloyd George, *June 21*, 468.

Paul, Mr. H. W. [Northampton]
- Education (England and Wales) Bill. *Com., June 20*, 283; *June 25*, 685–687; *July 2*, 1453, 1454, 1518.
- Egypt—Attack on British Officers, Sentences on Natives, etc., *June 28*, 1135.
- Land Purchase—Cowper Commission, Results of, *June 28*, 1235, 1236.
- Merchandise Marks Act, Effect of, *June 20*, 172.
- Metropolitan District Electric Railway, Stoppages on, *July 2*, 1419.
- South African War—Military Use of "Standard and Digger's News" Premises, Basis of Payment, etc., *June 25*, 636.
- Transvaal Chinese Labour—Crime, proposals for Prevention of, *June 28*, 1128.

Paulton, Mr. J. M. [Durham, Bishop Auckland]
- Rights of Way Bill, Reason for Withdrawing *July 2*, 1434.

Pearce, Mr. R. [Staffordshire, Leek]
- Africa, South—Constabulary Goods supplied by Messrs. Stillwell & Son, *June 19*, 22.
- Army Good Conduct Medals—Claim of H. Hulme, *June 21*, 353.
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., June 26*, 866.
- Rugby School—Alleged Outbreaks of Ophthalmia, etc., *June 29*, 1255.

Pease, Mr. H. P. [Darlington]
- Education—Diocesan Inspectors, Position of, *June 25*, 620.
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., June 20*, 197, 198, 220; *July 2*, 1504, 1505.
- Hutton—Expenditure on Poplar Schools at, *June 25*, 620.

[*cont.*

Pease, Mr. H. P.—*cont.*
Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 22*, 516.
Post Office—Letter Collection by Postmen from Passers by, *June 25*, 619.

Penal Servitude Acts, 1853-1891
Conditional Licences granted under, *June 28*, 1083, 1095.
Prosecutions for Failure to Report, Procedure in.
Q. Mr. Pickersgill ; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 20*, 171, 172.

Penllwyn Railway and Road Bill
c. Rep. June 27*, 914.
*Con.**, *July 3*, 1590.

Percy, Earl [Kensington, S.]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 20*, 250.

Perks, Mr. R. W. [Lincolnshire, Louth]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 20*, 229, 277, 278 ; *June 27*, 970, 1017 ; *July 2*, 1447–1450, 1483.

Persse Estate
Untenanted Land, Disposal of.
Q. Mr. Duffy ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1105.

Peterborough Gas Bill
l. Rep. July 3*, 1557.

Phibbs Estate
Errieff Grazing Farm, Disposal of.
Q. Dr. Ambrose ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1397, 1398.
Tubbercurry Portion, Sale Proposals for.
Qs. Mr. O'Dowd ; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1154, 1155.

Philipps, Lt.-Col. J. [Southampton]
Southampton Docks Telegraph Office, Position of, *June 28*, 1097.

Pickersgill, Mr. E. H. [Bethnal Green, S.W.]
Criminal Offenders, System of Probation Guardianship of, *June 25*, 649.
Egypt—Attack on British Officers, *July 2*, 1412.
Ejectment Orders—Alleged Illegality in Depositing Goods in Street, *June 21*, 363.
Germany—Alleged Expulsion of Alien Cigarette Makers from Prussia, *June 20*, 171.
Penal Servitude Acts, Licences under—Procedure in Prosecutions for Failure to Report, *June 20*, 171.
Prisons, Flogging in, *June 25*, 649.
Post Office, Mail Van Drivers, Wages and Conditions of Service of, *June 21*, 410.
Unemployed—Proposals for Dealing with Question, *June 28*, 1158.
Unemployed Workmen Amendment Bill, Proposals as to, *June 20*, 195.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill
c. Rep. June 21*, 339.
*Con.** and 3R.* *June 22*, 494.
l. 1R.* *June 22*, 468.
2R.* *June 29*, 1238.
Com. July 2*, 1334.
3R.* *July 3*, 1559.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill
c. Rep. June 21*, 340.
*Con.** and 3R.* *June 22*, 494.
l. 1R.* *June 22*, 468.
2R.* *June 29*, 1238.
Com. July 2*, 1334.
3R.* *July 3*, 1559.

Pier and Harbour Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill
c. Rep. June 28*, 1093.
3R.* *June 29*, 1248.
l. 1R.* *July 2*, 1334.

Pilots and Pilotage
Abstract of Returns Relating to, Presented, *June 28*, 1083, 1095.
Aliens, Applications for Renewal of Certificates from.
Q. Sir S. King ; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 19*, 26.

Poisons and Pharmacy Bill
Referring to Select Committee, proposed.
Q. Mr. Winfrey ; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 27*, 915, 916.

Police
Constabulary, Royal Irish *see that title.*
Metropolitan Weekly Day of Rest, proposed.
Q. Mr. Seaverns ; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 21*, 364.

Police (Superannuation) Bill
c. Lords' Amendts., *Con.* June 19*, 61.
l. Royal Assent, *June 22*, 465.

Political Pensions Act Abolition Bill
Government Attitude Towards.
Q. Sir H. Vincent ; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 25*, 630.

Pontefract Corporation Bill
l. Report from Attorney-General, *June 19*, 1.
2R.* *June 19*, 3.

Poole Corporation Water Bill
c. 3R.* *June 21*, 339.
l. 1R.* *June 22*, 467.
2R.* *June 29*, 1238.

Poor Law
Contracts and Tenders, Powers of Guardians as to.
Q. Mr. Meagher ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 604.

cont.

Poor Law—*cont.*

Ireland

Commission Report, Reason for Delay in Presenting.
Qs. Mr. Barrie, Mr. T. W. Russell; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 51, 52.

Dispensary Doctors, Salaries of.
Q. Mr. Meagher; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 603.

Number of Paupers Relieved on 1st January, 1906, and 1st July, 1906—Statement Ordered, *June 25*, 586.

Rate for, Sanctioning of, by Justices, Reason for Charging Fees for.
Os. Lord Barnard, *June 21*, 337, 338; Earl Carrington, 338.

Relief by Way of Loan, Powers of Guardians as to.
Q. Mr. Meagher; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 598, 599.

Sailors and Marines, Admiralty Liability in Respect of.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 22*, 497.

Scotland—Holiday Regulations for Medical Officers.
Q. Mr. J. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *July 3*, 1633.

Poplar

Poor Law Guardians, Administration, etc., of—Inquiry—Circulation of Notes, proposed.
Q. Sir F. Banbury; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 25*, 588.

Portavogie

Harbour Works, Progress made with.
Q. Mr. Long; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1396.

Portsmouth, Earl of—*Under-Secretary for War*

Meat Contracts, Specifications for—Substitution of "Home-killed" for "Home-bred" beef, *June 28*, 1090.

Qualifying Examination, Date fixed for, *June 29*, 1240.
Reserve Forces Bill, 3R., *June 22*, 486.

Portsmouth Water Bill

c. 2R.* *June 27*, 913.

Post Office

Postmaster General—Rt. Hon. S. Buxton.

[*For particular places, see their names*].

Blind Persons, Reduction of Postage on Literature for, proposed.
Os. Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 395, 427; Lord Valentia, 411, 412.

Post Office—*cont.*

Contracts

Conditions of, Enforcement of Fair Wages Clause, etc.
Os. Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 395, 396, 427; Mr. W. T. Wilson, 456.

Ireland, Allocation of Contracts in.
Os. Mr. C. Devlin, *June 21*, 432.

Richards, Messrs., Employees dismissed by, etc.
Q. Mr. Clynes; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 25*, 650, 651.

Defaulter Sheets—Rule as to making Entries.
Q. Mr. Nannetti; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *July 2*, 1377.

Electric Lighting, Installation Plant, Expenditure on.
Os. Sir F. Banbury, *June 21*, 455; Mr. Buxton, 457.

Foreign Letter Postage, Changes in.
Os. Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 393; Mr. Heaton, 398.

Gates, Mr. F., Case of.
Q. Mr. Steadman; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 28*, 1114.

Halfpenny Postage—Extension of Benefits of, proposals as to.
Os. Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 391.

Increase in number of Employees.
Os. Mr. H. Beach, *June 21*, 457.

International Coupons, Introduction of System of.
Os. Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 394.

Ireland—Postal Service between England and North of Ireland, Extension of Route for, proposed.
Os. Mr. T. W. Russell, *June 21*, 413.

Learners' Promotion, Delays in.
Os. Mr. W. T. Wilson, *June 21*, 456.

Letter Collection by Postmen, from passers by, Regulations as to.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 25*, 619.

Letters posted by mistake, Question as to Return of.
Os. Mr. Heaton, *June 21*, 400; Mr. Buxton, 428.

Losses, Liability of Post Office for.
Os. Mr. Heaton, *June 21*, 400; Mr. Buxton, 428.

Lottery Circulars sent through the post.
Os. Mr. Silcock, *June 21*, 450; Mr. S. Buxton, 457.

[*cont.*

Post Office—*cont.*

Mail Service

Africa, South, expediting incoming Mails from, proposed.
O. Mr. Dalziel, *June 21*, 452, 453.
Q. Mr. H. D. McLaren; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 28*, 1144.

American Mails, Arrangements for Despatch of, from Southampton,
Qs. Mr. C. Devlin; *As.* Mr. Buxton, *June 25*, 651; *July 2*, 1428.

India, Expediting Mails from, proposed.
Q. Mr. Laidlaw; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 368, 369.

Times of Departure of American and Canadian Mails, Uncertainty as to.
Os. Mr. C. Devlin, *June 21*, 432.

Mail Van Drivers, Wages and Conditions of Service of.
Os. Mr. Seddon, *June 21*, 405; Mr. Pickersgill, 410; Col. Lockwood, 414; Mr. Buxton, 427; Mr. Rowlands, 433.

Medical Officers, Salaries and Payments to, Information as to.
Os. Sir F. Banbury, *June 21*, 425.

Money Orders

Amendment Regulations Presented, *June 29*, 1239, 1252.

Foreign, Reduction in poundage on, proposed.
Os. Mr. Heaton, *June 21*, 399.

Regulations (1906) Presented, *July 3*, 1594.

Telegraph Orders, Delivering Money direct to Addressees, proposed.
Os. Mr. Heaton, *June 21*, 399.

Motor Carriage Service, Development of, proposed.
Os. Mr. Seddon, *June 21*, 405; Col. Lockwood, 414; Sir F. Banbury, 422, 423.

Mount Pleasant Sorting Office—Case of Mr. Carmody.
Q. Mr. Nannetti; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *July 2*, 1377.

Telegraph Workers, Dismissal of.
Os. Sir W. J. Collins, *June 21*, 453.

Newspaper Rates to Canada, Decision as to.
Os. Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 395; Sir G. Parker, 406–409; Col. Lockwood, 414; Mr. Morton, 420; Mr. C. Devlin, 431.

Parcel Post—Charges, Reduction in Scale of.
Os. Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 390.

Post Office—*cont.*

Penny Post, Universal, Possibility of Establishing.
Os. Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 392, 393, 428, 429; Mr. Heaton, 398, 399; Mr. Morton, 419.

Permanent Commission to deal with Wages and Conditions of Service, Establishment of, proposed.
Os. Sir G. Parker, *June 21*, 406.

Postal Order Poundage, Reduction of.
Os. Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 391; Sir F. Banbury, 423.

Post Cards

Foreign Cards written on Address side, Surcharges for.
Os. Mr. Fell, *June 21*, 453.

Selling at Face Value, proposed.
Os. Mr. Heaton, *June 21*, 399; Mr. Buxton, 428.

Postmasters

Head Postmastership Vacancies, Regulations as to Filling of.
Os. Mr. E. H. Lamb, *June 21*, 454.

Sub-postmasters

Privileges of Members of Parliament as to Appointment of.
Os. Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 397; Mr. Heaton, 401.

Remuneration and Conditions of Service of.
Os. Colonel Lockwood, *June 21*, 415; Mr. C. Wason, 416; Mr. C. E. Price, 455.

Postmen

Burdens Carried by Rural Postmen.
Os. Mr. Bridgeman, *June 21*, 451.

Ex-Soldiers as Rural Postmen, Working of System.
Os. Colonel Lockwood, *June 21*, 415; Colonel Kenyon-Slaney, 429, 430; Mr. Buxton, 456; Mr. Meysey-Thompson, 459.

Ex-telegraph Messengers, Vacancies Reserved for.
Q. Mr. J. O'Connor; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 342.

Private Letter-boxes, Affording Facilities for, proposed.
Os. Mr. Heaton, *June 21*, 399.

Revenue, Satisfactory Condition of.
Os. Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 389.

Rural Districts, Extension of Facilities in,
Os. Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 391, 392; Mr. W. Long, 404, 405; Sir A. Acland-Hood, 418, 419; Sir F. Banbury, 422; Captain Craig, 460.

Savings Bank, *see* Post Office Savings Bank.

Scotland

Appointments to Highest Positions in, Claims of Scotchmen.
Os. Mr. Dalziel, *June 21*, 452; Mr. C. E. Price, 454.

[*cont.*

Post Office—*cont.*
  Scotland—*cont.*
    Northern Islands and Districts, Extension of Facilities in, proposed.
      Os. Mr. C. Wason, *June 21*, 416–418, 426; Mr. Buxton, 425, 426; Mr. Ainsworth, 430.
  Stamps—Purchase at Railway Stations, Facilities for, proposed.
    Os. Mr. Heaton, *June 21*, 400.
  Sunday Deliveries
    Abolition of, in Scotland, proposed.
      Q. Mr. J. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 28*, 1144.
    Anomalies of.
      Os. Mr. H. Beach. *June 21*, 458.
  Trade Unions, Recognition of, by the Postal Authorities.
    Os. Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 396.
  Travelling Post Offices, Accidents to—Compensation Paid to Employees, etc.
    Q. Mr. Steadman; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 28*, 1113, 1114.
  Underpaid Letters, Reduction in Fine for.
    Os. Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 394.
  Uniforms, Contract Rates paid for.
    Os. Mr. Morton, *June 21*, 420; Mr. Buxton, 429.
  Vaccination of Employees, Regulations as to
    Os. Mr. Lupton, *June 21*, 401–403; Mr. Long, 403; Mr. Buxton, 426.
  Vote for, *June 21*, 388, 449.
  Wages—Political Pressure Exerted by Employees.
    Os. Sir F. Banbury, *June 21*, 424.
  Westminster Construction Company, Wages Paid by, when Engaged on Post Office Work.
    Qs. Mr. J. Ward; *As.* Mr. Buxton, *June 19*, 39.

Post Office Savings Banks
  Accounts and Statement (1905) Presented, *July 2*, 1335, 1372.
  Accounts on which no Transactions have taken place for Periods of Years.
    Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *July 3*, 1599.
  Index of Depositors, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *July 3*, 1600.
  Unclaimed Balances, List of, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *July 3*, 1599.

Post Office Sites Bill
  c. Report from Select Committee, *June 28*, 1160.

Postmaster-General
  Rt. Hon. S. Buxton.

Potted Meats
  See Canned Foodstuffs.

Powell, Sir F. S. [Wigan]
  Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 94, 113; *June 25*, 698; *July 2*, 1446–1447; *July 3*, 1709, 1711.

Power, Mr. P. J. [Waterford, E.]
  Bonmahon, Erection of Pier at, proposed, *June 19*, 30.
  Cork City Railways and Works Bill, 3R., *June 26*, 893.
  Dunmore East, Fisheries, Effect of Steam. Trawling on, *June 26*, 792.
  Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 27*, 996–998.
  Fisheries, Protection of—Admiralty Assistance, etc., *June 26*, 790, 791.
  Gun Licence, Reason for refusing to Mr. D. Casey, *June 20*, 151.
  Trawlers, Steam, Extension of Irish Areas forbidden to, proposed, *June 19*, 45.
  Waterford Toll Bridge—Obligation on Fishguard and Rosslare Company to contribute to New Bridge, etc., *June 28*, 1100.

Poyntzpass
  Constabulary Sergeant, Religion of.
    Q. Mr. McKillop; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 152, 153.

President of the Board of Agriculture
  Rt. Hon. Earl Carrington.

President of the Board of Education
  Rt. Hon. A. Birrell.

President of the Board of Trade
  Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd-George.

President of the Local Government Board
  Rt. Hon. J. Burns.

Press
  Dissemination of News in War Time, Government Control over, etc.
    Qs. Mr. A. Lee; *As.* Sir H. Campbell Bannerman, *June 27*, 954.

Preston, Chorley, and Horwich Tramways Bill
  l. Royal Assent, *June 22*, 465.

Prevention of Corruption Bill
  c. *Rep.** *June 25*, 667.

Price, Mr. C. E. [Edinburgh, Central]
  Post Office
    Appointments to highest Positions in Scotland, Claims of Scotchmen, *June 21*, 454.
    Sub-Postmasters, Conditions of Service of, *June 21*, 455.

Prisons
Flogging in, during 1904–5 and 1905–6.
Q. Mr. Pickersgill; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 25*, 649.
Flogging in (1900–5), Information as to.
Q. Mr. Ll. Morgan; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *July 3*, 1602.
Ireland
Petitions for Release of Prisoners, Procedure as to—Case of J. McCann.
Qs. Mr. Farrell, Mr. MacNeill; *As.* Mr. Cherry, Mr. Speaker, *June 28*, 1149, 1150.
Warders, Grievances of.
Q. Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 3*, 1608.

Probation of First Offender's Bill
c. 1R.* *June 25*, 668.

Public Trustee Bill
Expediting Passage of, proposed.
Q. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 25*, 663.
Liabilities incurred by Public Trustees, Charge on Consolidated Fund to make good—Committee to authorise Payment of.
Resolution [Mr. Whiteley], *June 21*, 460.

Public Works Loan Board
Report 1905-6 Presented, *June 29*, 1239, 1252.

Punishments in Public
Discontinuance of, in Countries under the British Flag, proposed.
Q. Mr. J. C. Wason; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *July 2*, 1433.

Questions
Argumentative, *June 20*, 169.
Improper, *June 28*, 1152.
Irish—Supply of Copies of Oral Answers for use of Members, proposed.
Q. Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1108.
Irrelevant, *June 26*, 791; *June 28*, 1125, 1142.
Matter of Opinion, Question on, *July 2*, 1407.
Notice to be given of, *June 27*, 925, 948; *June 28*, 1128, 1149; *July 2*, 1408; *July 3*, 1616.
Out of Order, *June 21*, 366.
Private Members, Questions asked of, not permissible, *June 26*, 772.
Speeches may not be made during Time for, *June 27*, 947; *July 3*, 1641.

adford, Mr. G. H. [Islington, E.]
Local Authorities' Accounts, Committee on—Publication of Evidence, proposed, *June 27*, 916.

Raheen
Reinstatement of J. Sheehy.
Q. Mr. O'Shaughnessy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 190.

Railway Clearing System (Superannuation Fund) Bill
c. *Rep.** *June 22*, 494.
*Con.** *June 29*, 1248.
3R.* *July 3*, 1590.

Railways
Banking Train up an Incline by Means of Uncoupled Engine, Danger of Practice of.
Q. Mr. Wardle; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 26*, 775.
Electric, Metropolitan District Stoppages, etc., Cause of.
Q. Mr. Paul; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *July 2*, 1419.
Excess Luggage Receipts Exceeding £2, Liability of, for Stamp Duty.
Q. Mr. Lloyd Morgan; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 25*, 657.
Light, in Scotland—Increase of Treasury Grants for Crofting Counties, proposed.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *June 25*, 654.
Sparks from Engines, Danger from, on Great Southern and Western (Ireland) Railway.
Q. Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *July 2*, 1393.
Timber, Rates for Carriage of.
Q. Mr. D. Davies; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *July 2*, 1418.

Rainy, Mr. A. R. [Kilmarnock Burghs]
Cumbrae, Island of—Proposals for Settlement of Pier Dues Dispute, etc., *June 28*, 1141.

Rasch, Major Sir F. C. [Chelmsford]
Education Grant, Annual, Period for Paying, *June 20*, 162.

Rathlin Island
Fishing, Damage done to, by Steam Trawlers, etc.,
Q. Mr. Glendinning; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1398, 1399.

Rawlinson, Mr. J. F. P. [Cambridge University]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 71, 73, 87, 110; *June 20*, 251, 252; *June 27*, 1023, 1024.
Clause 6, Date of Publishing Amendments to, *June 27*, 919.

[*cont.*

Rawlinson, Mr. J. F. P.—*cont.*
- Education Bill—*cont.*
  - Financial Proposals—Date of Publishing Rules, *June 27*, 919.
- London County Council (Money) Bill, *Con.*, *June 21*, 434–436, 437.

Reay, Lord
- Congo Free State, Belgian Administration — Decrees and Correspondence Relating to, etc., *July 3*, 1568–1575.

Reddy, Mr. M. [King's County, Birr]
- Egypt—Attack on British Officers, Sentences inflicted, etc., *July 2*, 1411, 1412.

Redmond, Mr. J. E. [Waterford]
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 26*, 811–819, 859, 860.
- Great Northern (Ireland) and Midland Railways Bill—Instruction to Committee, *July 3*, 1744, 1745.
- Intermediate Education Board Rules
  - Parliamentary Control over Board, etc., *June 26*, 790.
  - Proposals as to, *June 20*, 181, 182.
  - Resolution of House of Commons regarding, Alleged Refusal of the Board to carry out, *July 2*, 1541, 1542.
- Irish Supply, Proposals as to Taking, *June 25*, 666.

Redmond, Mr. W. H. K. [Clare, E.]
- Australasia
  - Canned Foodstuffs, System of Inspection, etc., *June 25*, 614.
  - Commonwealth, Confidential Nature of Despatches to, *June 19*, 34.
- Clare Evicted Tenants, Reinstatement of, *June 25*, 601; *June 26*, 785.
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 25*, 700–703; *June* 27, 988, 999, 1000, 1023; *July 2*, 1516–1518; *July 3*, 1670–1671.
  - "Other Payment" Definition of, in Amendment as to Rent, *July 3*, 1629.
- Housing of the Working Classes in Irish Towns, Proposals as to, *June 19*, 46, 47; *June 26*, 782, 783.
- Intermediate Education Board Rules for 1906–7 — Resolution of House of Commons regarding, Refusal of the Board to carry out, *July 2*, 1553.
- Killaloe Petty Sessions Clerk—Appointment of Mr. McKeogh, *June 25*, 626.
- Land Purchase, Administration of Acts, etc.—Commission of Inquiry into, proposed, *June 28*, 1193–1198.
- Rosslare Harbour Buoys, Improvement of, proposed, *June 21*, 385, 386.

Reenard
- Pier Improvements, Decision as to. *Q.* Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 48.

Rees, Mr. J. D. [Montgomery Boroughs]
- Abyssinia—Decision as to Extension of Djibuti Railway, *July 2*, 1390.
- Africa Central
  - Elephant Marsh Game Preserve—Danger to Chiromo from Lions in, *July 2*, 1389.
  - Labour Contracts, Enforcement of, *June 27*, 923.
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 266–268.
- India
  - Army
    - Native Assaults on British Soldiers in the Himalayas, *July 2*, 1395.
    - Provision of Officers for Native Regiments, *June 25*, 632.
  - Bengal, Eastern
    - Partition of Province—Tabling Papers as to Local Opinion, proposed, *June 27*, 928.
    - Restrictions on processions, etc., in, *June 27*, 927.
- Juries, System of calling for Service on *June 25*, 647.
- Motors—Dust Nuisance, proposals for dealing with, *June 27*, 918.
- Poor Law—Admiralty Liability in Respect of Sailors and Marines, *June 22*, 497.
- Postal Deliveries in Montgomeryshire, increasing number of, proposed, *June 21*, 455.
- Transvaal—Native Labour, Facilities for Recruiting, *July 2*, 1409.
- Tse-tse Fly, Date of Presenting Dr. Davey's Report on, *June 25*, 644.

Removal of Offensive Matter Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *June 25*, 668.

Reserve Forces Bill
- *l. Rep.** *June 21*, 320.
- 3R., *June 22*, 485.

Revenue and Expenditure
- Finance Accounts (1905–6), Presented, *June 21*, 298, 341.
- Proposals involving increased Expenditure, introduced by Members of the Liberal Party.
  - *Os.* Viscount St. Aldwyn, *June 21*, 303, 304; Marquess of Ripon, 318.
- Return 1905–6, Ordered *July 3*, 1595.

Richardson, Mr. A. [Nottingham, S.]
- Nottingham Miners' Association Rules, Decision as to, *June 26*, 778.

Richmond Bridge
Cash Account (1905), Presented, *July 2*, 1373.

Ridsdale, Mr. E. A. [Brighton]
Ceylon Pearl Fisheries, Conditions of Leasing, *July 3*, 1615.
German Naval Shipbuilding Programme, *July 2*, 1400.

Rifle Clubs
Government Grant to, proposed.
Q. Mr. H. Beach; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 28*, 1110.

Rights of Way
Proof of—Amendment of Law proposed.
O. Mr. Paulton, *July 2*, 1434.
Q. Mr. J. R. Macdonald; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *July 2*, 1433, 1434.
Public Rights, Protection of.
Q. Mr. J. R. Macdonald; *A.* Sir H Campbell-Bannerman, *June 27*, 955

Rights of Way Bill
c. Order for Committee read and Bill withdrawn, *June 27*, 1080.

Ripon, Marquess of—*Lord Privy Seal*
Army Expenditure, possibility of Effecting Reduction in, *June 21*, 318.
Coal-tax, abolition of, *June 21*, 316, 317.
Congo Free State, Belgian Administration—Intervention of Great Britain, etc., *July 3*, 1588, 1589.
Ecclesiastical Discipline Commission Report, Reason for Delay in Presenting, *June 19*, 5; *June 22*, 481.
Expenditure, Proposals involving increased Expenditure introduced by Members of the Liberal Party, *June 21*, 318.
Finance Bill, 2R., *June 21*, 315–319.
Income Tax
Graduation and Differentiation of, Committee of Inquiry into, *June 21*, 316.
Reduction of, Possibility of effecting, *June 21*, 316, 319.
Macedonia Reform Schemes, Progress made with, *July 2*, 1360.
Metropolitan Police Commission, 3R., *June 19*, 14–16.
Second Speech on Question, Irregular Procedure, *June 25*, 578.
Tea Duty, Remission of 1d. per pound, *June 21*, 319.
Turkey—Customs Tariff, proposed increase in—Progress of Negotiations, *July 2*. 1359, 1360.

Ritualistic Practices
See Ecclesiastical Discipline.

Ritz Hotel Bill
l. Rep. June 19*, 2.
3R.* *June 22*, 466.
c. 1R.* *June 25*, 583.

Roads
Annexation of Roadside Strips by Landowners, Powers of Rural District Councils to prevent.
Q. Mr. Cox; *A.* Mr. Burns, *July 2*, 1422.

Roberts, Mr. C. H. [Lincoln]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 25*, 709–711.
Macedonian Reforms, Progress made with, *June 25*, 646.

Roberts, Mr. J. H. [Denbighshire, W.]
Ecclesiastical Commissioners, Public Houses on Estates of, *June 27*, 936.
Forestry—Progress made with Schemes, *June 20*, 160.
India
Appointments Created during last seven years, etc., *June 27*, 926.
Budget, Date of Taking, *June 28*, 1096.
Excise Administration Committee Report, date of circulating, *June 27*, 927.
Government Departments — Increase of Pay of Superior Officers during last four years, *June 27*, 926.
Technical Education, Expenditure on, *June 28*, 1096.

Roberts, Mr. S. [Sheffield, Ecclesall]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 20*, 213; *June 25*, 711, 712; *July 2*, 1486, 1487.

Roberts Estate
Sale of—Disposal of Casserly's Holding, etc.
Q. Mr. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 150, 151.

Robertson, Rt. Hon. E.—*Secretary to the Admiralty* [Dundee]
Admiralty
Clerks
Increase in Number of, *June 28*, 1122.
Second Division Clerks, Position of, *June 25*, 618.
Contracts
Glassware Contracts, Allocation of *June 19*, 33.
Richards, Messrs., wages paid by, *June 20*, 164.

[*cont.*

Robertson, Rt. Hon. E.—*cont.*

Admiralty—*cont.*

Flag List—Decision as to Publication of Report of Lord Goschen's Committee, *June 27*, 922.

Wireless Telegraphy Agreement, Tabling, proposed, *June 28*, 1123.

Battleships Return—Alleged Inclusion of Defective Vessels, *July 2*, 1392.

Boatswains and Carpenters, Utilisation of, under New Scheme, *June 21*, 345.

"County" Class Cruisers, Cost of Re-Arming, etc., *June 20*, 157.

Dockyards

Chatham

Area and Value of, *July 2*, 1401.

Discharges—Decision as to, *June 20*, 157.

Transfer of Workmen— Decision as to, *July 2*, 1376.

Wages—Decision as to, *July 2*, 1401.

Eyesight Tests, Regulations as to, *June 19*, 32; *June 25*, 590, 630.

Galway—Distance from certain places, *July 3*, 1596.

German Naval Shipbuilding Programme, *June 20*, 164; *July 2*, 1400, 1401.

"Montagu"

Repair at Chatham, proposed, *June 20*, 157.

Salving, etc., Proposals as to, *July 2*, 1402.

Ordnance Department Pension System, *June 19*, 25.

Pension of G. Howe, *June 20*, 147.

Promotions under New Scheme, *June 26*, 763.

"Ramillies" and "Prince of Wales," Progress of Repairs to, *June 25*, 617.

"Renown" Shipment of Armament to, *June 25*, 617.

Rosyth, Proposals as to, *July 2*, 1402.

Shipbuilding Programme, Effect of Restrictions on Overtime in Dockyards, *July 2*, 1400.

Start Bay Firing Practice—Alleged Forcible Removal of Fishermen, etc., *June 26*, 753.

Wages and Conditions of Service, Inquiry into, proposed, *June 20*, 156.

Robertson, Mr. J. M. [Northumberland, Tyneside]

Admiralty

Accountant Clerks, Temporary, Conditions of Appointment of, *June 25*, 621.

Second Division Clerks, Position of, *June 25*, 617.

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *July 2*, 1475–1479.

Robertson, Mr. J. M.—*cont.*

Egypt—Attack on British Officers, Sentences inflicted, etc., *July 2*, 1413.

Ordnance Survey, Seventh Division, Proposals as to, *June 21*, 346.

South African War—Compensation Claim of Dr. Chiveiback, *June 25*, 641.

Transvaal Chinese Labourers— "Indravelli" and "Cranley," Antecedents, etc., of Arrivals by, *June 25*, 641.

Robson, Sir W S.—*Solicitor-General* [South Shields]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 72, 84, 93, 104; *June 20*, 206, 228, 230, 234, 257–259; *June 26*, 870–872; *June 27*, 979, 980, 981, 989, 1022, 1023; *July 3*, 1659–1662.

Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 29*, 1262, 1297, 1315.

Roche, Mr. J. [Galway, E.]

Clanricarde Estate

Evicted Tenants—Reinstatements Effected, *June 27*, 951.

Situation on, Protection of Tenants, etc., *June 27*, 946–948.

Ffrench, Miss K., Estate of—Sale Negotiations, *June 27*, 945.

Local Government Board Representation at Legal Proceedings, *June 27*, 944.

New Inn—Grant to W. O'Neill, *July 3*, 1635.

School Building plans, Decision as to, *June 28*, 1102.

Woodford Petty Sessions—Dog licence case of J. McMahon, *June 27*, 951.

Rochester, Chatham and Strood Gas Bill

l. 2R.* *June 19*, 3.

Rogers, Mr. F. N. [Wilts., Devizes]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 102, 103; *July 2*, 1487–1490.

Rolls, Ex-Police Constable

Case of—Including in Police Commission Bill, proposed.

Os. Earl Russell, *June 19*, 8.

Roodstown

Duffy, M., Case of

Q. Mr. Nolan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 3*, 1636.

Roscommon

Reinstatement Applications.

Q. Mr. J. O'Kelly; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 592.

Rosslare Harbour

Buoys and Lighting Arrangements, Improvement of, proposed.

Qs. Mr. Ffrench, Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 21*, 385, 386.

Ross-shire
Schools, Proposals for Improving Water Supply of.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *June 25,* 658.

Roughfort
School, Proposals for Closing, Reason for Dismissal of Teacher, etc.
Qs. Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2,* 1398.

Roumania
Trade Report Presented, *July 2,* 1335.

Rowlands, Mr. J. [**Kent, Dartford**]
Post Office Mail Van Drivers, Wages and Conditions of Service of, *June 21,* 433.

Rugby Lower School Bill
c. *Rep.* June 21,* 340.
3R.* *June 25,* 583.

Rugby School
Ophthalmia, etc., outbreaks, Prevention of.
Q. Mr. R. Pearce; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 29,* 1255.

Runciman, Mr. W.—*Parliamentary Secretary, Local Government Board* [Dewsbury]
Congo Free State Administration—Intervention of Powers under Berlin Act, etc., *June 26,* 769.
Germany—Aliens in, Police Power to Expel, *June 25,* 645.
Macedonia
Budget Deficit, Civil and Military Expenditure, etc., *June 20,* 170.
Reforms, Progress made with, *June 25,* 646.
Russia—Anti-Semitic Outrages
British Representations, etc., proposed, *June 20,* 170.
Russian Government Measures for Protection of Jews, etc., *June 25,* 646.
Spain, Customs Tariff, New, Effect of, Progress of Negotiations, etc., *June 25,* 645, 646.

Russell, Earl
Metropolitan Police Commission Bill, 3R., *June 19,* 7–11.
Rolls, Ex-Police Constable, Case of—Including in Police Commission Bill, proposed, *June 19,* 8.

Russell, Mr. T. W. [Tyrone, S.]
Clanricarde Estate, Situation on, Protection of Tenants, etc., *June 27,* 946–948.
Connaught, Land Sales in, Allegations against Landlords, *June 28,* 1190, 1229, 1230.

Russell, Mr. T. W.—*cont.*
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., June 20,* 264; *June 25,* 712, 713.
Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Bill, *Con., June 19,* 144.
Intermediate Education Board Rules for 1906–7—Resolution of House of Commons regarding, Refusal of Board to carry out, *July 2,* 1548.
Land Purchase, Administration of Acts, etc.—Commission of Inquiry into, proposed, *June 28,* 1189, 1191.
Poor Law Commission Report, Reason for Delay in Presenting, *June 19,* 52.
Postal Service between England and North of Ireland, Extension of Route for, proposed, *June 21,* 413.
Transvaal, Chinese Labour—Illiterates, Number of, *June 28,* 1125.

Russia
Anti-Semitic Outrages
British Government Representations, proposed.
Q. Mr. S. Samuel; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *June 20,* 170.
Qs. Mr. Thorne, Mr. Macdonald; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *June 21,* 360, 361.
Q. Mr. Straus; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *June 25,* 615.
Qs. Sir W. Evans Gordon, Mr. Trevelyan; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *June 26,* 768, 769.
Qs. Mr. Thorne, Mr. Flynn; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *June 28,* 1132.
Q. Sir W. Evans Gordon, *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *July 2,* 1432. 1433.
Measures for Protection of Jews, by Russian Government, etc.
Q. Mr. Harwood; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *June 19,* 22.
Q. Mr. Harwood; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *June 25,* 646.
Report on by British Ambassador, proposed.
Q. Mr. Straus; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *June 27,* 917.
British Fleet, Visit of, during Manœuvres, Objections to.
Os. Earl of Jersey, *July 2,* 1360, 1361, 1366; Lord Heneage, 1361–1363; Lord Muskerry, 1363; Lord Ellenborough, 1364; Lord Nunburnholme, 1364; Lord Fitzmaurice, 1365.
Qs. Sir W. Evans Gordon, Mr. Trevelyan; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *June 26,* 768, 769.
Qs. Mr. Thorne, Mr. Flynn; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *June 28,* 1132.
Trade Reports Presented, *June 28,* 1083.

Rutherford, Dr. V. H. [Middlesex, Brentford]
Bengal, Eastern—Decision as to Restrictions on Religious Processions etc., *June 27*, 927.

Rutherford, Mr. W. W. [Liverpool, W. Derby]
Wireless Telegraphy, Adoption of—Alleged Opposition to, by Lloyds, *June 21*, 433, 434.
Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill—Instruction to Committee, *June 26*, 898.

Rutherglen Burgh Order Confirmation Bill
c. 1R.* *June 28*, 1092.

Ryefield
Dowd, Mr. J., alleged Boycotting of.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 597.

St. Aldwyn, Viscount
Army Expenditure, Possibility of Effecting Reduction in, *June 21*, 302, 303.
Coal Tax, Abolition of, Effect on Home Consumers, etc., *June 21*, 301.
Ecclesiastical Discipline Commission Report, Reason for Delay in Presenting, *June 22*, 482.
Expenditure — Proposals involving Increased Expenditure, Introduced by Members of the Liberal Party, *June 21*, 303, 304.
Finance Bill, 2R., *June 21*, 299–307, 313.
Income Tax
  Graduation and Differentiation, Proposals as to, *June 21*, 305.
  Reduction, Possibility of effecting—Objections to maintaining at War Level in Time of Peace, *June 21*, 299, 300, 302, 306, 307.
Justices of the Peace (No. 2) Bill, *Com.*, *June 22*, 472.
Military and Naval Works, Proposals as to Abolition of Loan System, *June 21*, 303.
Tea Duty—Remission of 1d. per pound, *June 21*, 300.

St. George's Estate
Greally, M., Case of.
Q. Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1104.

St. John's (Westminster) Improvement Bill
*c. Rep.** *June 21*, 340.
Con. and 3R.* *June 26*, 748.
l. 1R.* *June 26*, 746.
2R.* *July 3*, 1558.

St. Pancras Electricity Bill
l. 2R.* *June 19*, 3.

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill
c. Report from Standing Committee on Trade, *June 27*, 958.

Salisbury
Railway Accident—Proposals as to Inquiry, etc.
Qs. Mr. Dalziel, Mr. Wardle; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *July 2*, 1419.

Salisbury, Marquess of
Metropolitan Police Commission, Bill, 3R., *June 19*, 13, 14.
Servia, Conditions of renewing Diplomatic Relations with, *June 22*, 491, 492.

Salter, Mr. C. [Hampshire, Basingstoke]
Army—Case of D. Bremner, *July 2*, 1403.
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 93, 94; *June 26*, 864–866; *July 2*, 1506, 1507.

Saltoun, Lord
Ground Game Bill, 2R., *July 3*, 1565.

Samuel, Mr. H. L.—*Under-Secretary Home Office* [Yorkshire, Cleveland]
Musical Copyright Bill, *Com.*, *June 26*, 910, 911.

Samuel, Mr. S. M. [Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel]
Africa, South—Import Duty on Second-hand Clothing, *July 2*, 1410.
Russian Anti-Semitic Outrages, proposed British Representations, etc., *June 20*, 170.

Sanderson, Lord
Turkey—Customs Tariff, Increase in, Conditions of British Government Sanction, *July 2*, 1352.

Sassoon, Sir E. A. [Hythe]
Education (England and Wales) Bill—Clause 36, dropping of, proposed, *June 26*, 756.

Scartaglen
School—Delay in granting Good Service Increments, alleged.
Q. Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1399.

Scathwaite Tarn
Waterworks, Cause of Explosion at, etc.
Q. Mr. Ward; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 21*, 467.

Schwann, Mr. C. E. [Manchester, N.]
  Baily Hill Water Supply, Proposals as to, *June 27*, 918.
  Local Government Provisional Order (No. 10) Bill, 2R., *July 2*, 1523–1525.
  Spotted Fever, Compulsory Notification of, proposed, *July 2*, 1421.

Scotland
  Secretary for—Rt. Hon. J. Sinclair.
  Lord Advocate—Rt. Hon. T. Shaw.
  Solicitor-General—Mr. A. Ure.
  [*See also names of Places.*]
  Crofters and Cottars—Loans to Crofters, Terms of.
    Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *July 2*, 1431.
  Education, *see* Education, Scotland.
  Estimates, Opportunity for discussing.
    Q. Mr. Smeaton; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 20*, 196.
  Fisheries, *see under title* Fisheries.
  Highland Crofting Counties, School Board Franchise—Proposals as to Return.
    Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *June 25*, 659.

Scott, Mr. A. H. [Ashton-under-Lyne]
  Local Government Provisional Order (No. 10) Bill, 2R., *July 2*, 1529, 1530.
  South African War—Military Use of *Standard and Diggers News* Premises, etc., Basis of Payment for, *June 25*, 634, 635; *June 28*, 1125, 1126; *July 3*, 1598, 1613, 1614.

Scottish Provident Institution Building Bill
  l. Royal Assent, *June 22*, 465.

Scottish Union and National Insurance Company Bill
  c. Report from Select Committee, *June 19*, 17.
    2R.* *June 25*, 583.

Sea Fisheries Provisional Order Bill
  *l. Com.** *June 29*, 1238.
    3R.* *July 2*, 1334.

Seamen's and Soldiers' False Characters Bill
  l. Royal Assent, *June 22*, 465.

Sears, Mr. J. E. [Cheltenham]
  Death Duties Departmental Committee, Date of Appointing, etc., *July 2*, 1378.
  Estate Duties, System of Collecting, Work of Principal Probate Registry, etc., *June 27*, 928, 929.
  Taxation
    Acts authorising Control of Collectors, etc., by Inland Revenue Board, *July 3*, 1621.

Sears, Mr. J. E.—*cont.*
  Taxation—*cont.*
    Alteration in System for Assessment and Collection, proposed, *June 21*, 361, 362.
    Collection—Confusion from Multiplication of Offices, alleged, *July 3*, 1621.

Seaverns, Mr. J. H. [Lambeth, Brixton]
  Brixton Prison Addition — Wages of Carpenters, *June 26*, 769.
  Central Telegraph Office Staff—Number attached to Engineer's Department, *June 25*, 619.
  Police, Weekly Day of rest for, proposed, *June 21*, 364.

Secretary of State for the Colonies
  Rt. Hon. Earl of Elgin.

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
  Rt. Hon. Sir E. Grey.

Secretary of State for the Home Department
  Rt. Hon. H. Gladstone.

Secretary of State for India
  Rt. Hon. J. Morley.

Secretary for Scotland
  Rt. Hon. J. Sinclair.

Secretary of State for War
  Rt. Hon. R. B. Haldane.

Seddon, Late Mr. R.
  Flag on Palace of Westminster, Reasons for not lowering to Half-mast on Occasion of Death and during Memorial Services for Mr. Seddon.
    Os. Earl of Meath, *June 28*, 1084–1087; Earl of Liverpool, 1087; Lord Stanmore, 1088.

Seddon, Mr. J. R. [Lancashire, S.W., Newton]
  Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 29*, 1294–1296.
  Post Office
    Mail Van Drivers, Wages and Conditions of Service of, *June 21*, 465.
    Motor Carriage Service, Development of, proposed, *June 21*, 405.
  Watches, Imported Portions of—Alleged Evasion of Act by not Marking, *June 20*, 172.
  Women Suffragists, Disturbances created by — Arrest and Imprisonment of Miss Billington, *June 21*, 464.

Seeley, Major J. E. B. [Liverpool, Abercromby]
  Education (England and Wales) Bill—Clause 3, Interpretation of, *July 3*, 1641.

[*cont.*

Seeley, Maj. J. E. B.—*cont.*
Transvaal—Chinese Labour.
Crime, Proposals for Prevention of, *June 28*, 1127, 1128.
Repatriation—Amended Notification, Proposals as to, *June 28*, 1125.

Servia
Diplomatic Relations with, Conditions of Resumption of, by Great Britain.
Os. Lord Newton, *June 22*, 487–490, 492, 493; Lord Fitzmaurice, 490, 491; Marquess of Salisbury, 491, 492.
Q. Mr. Bottomley; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *June 28*, 1133.
Retirement of Regicide Officers, Method of Effecting, Pensions and Emoluments conferred on, etc.
Os. Lord Newton, *June 22*, 489, 493; Marquess of Salisbury, 492.

Settled Land Bill
l. Report from Select Committee, *June 25*, 564.

Shackleton, Mr. D. [Lancashire, N.E., Clitheroe]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 27*, 1017–1019.
Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 29*, 1309.
Local Government Provisional Order (No. 10) Bill, 2R., *July 2*, 1533, 1534.
Tramcars, Electric, Brakes used on, *June 27*, 932.
Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill, Instruction to Committee, *June 26*, 904.
Women Suffragists, Disturbances Created by—Arrest and Imprisonment of Miss Billington, *June 21*, 463.

Shanghai
Administration, Reorganisation of, proposed, Revision of Procedure of Mixed Court, etc.
Q. Mr. D. Davies; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *July 2*, 1411.

Sheehan, Mr. D. D. [Cork Co., Mid.]
Colthurst Estate—Reinstatement of P. Mullane and J. Murphy, *June 25*, 625; *June 26*, 760.
Dunmanway Labourers' Cottages Scheme, case of Mr. Shea, *June 20*, 188.
Gun Licence Application of P. J. Long, Reason for Refusal of, *June 19*, 52.
Labourers Bill Loans, Expediting Date of Issuing at Reduced Interest, proposed, *June 21*, 383; *June 26*, 786.
Massy Estate, Sale Negotiations, *June 21*, 380.

Sheep Dipping
Ireland—Constabulary Assistance in Carrying out Compulsory order.
Q. Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 47, 48.

Sheerness
Firing Practice, Precautions against Danger from.
Q. Mr. Whitehead; *A.* Mr. Buchanan, *June 20*, 164.

Sheffield
Parliamentary Election Petition for Attercliffe Division, Certificate and Report of Justices, Presented, *July 2*, 1368.
Corrupt or Illegal Practices at, Decision as to, *July 2*, 1369.
Shorthand Writer's Notes of Evidence and Judgments, Presented, *July 2*, 1369.

Sheffield District Railway Bill
c. *Rep.* June 21*, 340.
Con. June 29*, 1248.
3R.* *July 3*, 1590.

Shelton Estate
Reinstatement of J. Murphy and L. O'Connell.
Qs. Mr. O'Shaughnessy; *As.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 189, 190.

Shoebury
Firing Practice, Precautions against Danger from.
Qs. Mr. Whitehead; *As.* Mr. Buchanan, *June 20*, 165.

Shop Hours Act
Orders made under, Presented, *June 19*, 5, 20.

Shrewsbury
Municipal Charities Scheme, Reason for Delay as to.
Q. Mr. Billson; *A.* Mr. Trevelyan, *June 28*, 1149.

Shropshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire Electric Power Bill
c. 1R.* *June 19*, 17.

Silcock, Mr. T. B. [Somerset, Wells]
Lottery Circulars sent through the Post, *June 21*, 450.
Macedonian Officials, Payment of Salaries of, *July 3*, 1597.
Malta—Reason for Prohibiting Protestant Mission Services, *June 19*, 35.

Sinclair, Rt. Hon. J.—*Secretary for Scotland* [Forfarshire]

Congested Districts Boards, Settlements on the Land, Conditions of, *July 2*, 1430.

Crofters, Terms of Loans to, *July 2*, 1431.

Crofters Act Amendment Bill, Date of Introducing, *June 25*, 658.

Edinburgh — Morningside Asylum, Precautions Against Escape from, Case of Patan, etc., *June 21*, 372.

Education

Legislative Proposals as to, *July 3*, 1631.

Pupil Teachers, Grant for, *June 26*, 779.

Teachers' Pensions, Increase of, proposed, *June 21*, 373.

Highland Crofting Counties and the School Board Franchise—Proposals as to Return, *June 25*, 659.

Kilbrennan Sound, Alleged Illegal Fishing in, *June 26*, 780.

Leith, South—Manse Repairs Assessment Case, *June 26*, 780.

Lewis, Island of

Migration of Cottars to Mainland—Application from Upper Bayble, etc., *June 25*, 659, ; *June 26*, 752.

Sanitary Condition, Proposals for Improving, *June 25*, 659.

Schools — Proposals for Improving Water Supply, *June 25*, 658.

Local Government Board Report, Date of Issuing, *June 21*, 342.

Millport Marine Biological Classes, alleged Intention to Cancel, *July 2*, 1429.

Moray Firth Trawling Appeal, Progress made with, *July 2*, 1430.

Poor Law Medical Officers, Holiday Regulations for, *July 3*, 1633.

Ross-shire Schools—proposals for improving Water Supply, *June 25*, 658.

Sutherland Deer Forests, Restrictions on Clearance for proposed *June 19*, 42; *July 3*, 1631–1633.

Trawling—Additional Cruiser for Protection of Fishing Grounds, proposed, *July 2*, 1430.

Uig Medical Officer, Provision of House for, *July 2*, 1429.

Skibbereen

Post Office—Refusal to pay Postal Order Signed in Irish.
Q. Mr. E. Barry; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 19*, 56.

Sligo

Estates Sold in, Price given, etc.
Q. Mr. O'Dowd; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1383.

Evicted tenants—Reinstatements dealt with.
Q. Mr. McHugh; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28*, 1154.

Sloan, Mr. T. H. [Belfast, S.]

Army

Bands—Regulations as to Sunday Performances, *June 28*, 1121.

Pressley, Sergeant T., Case of, *June 21*, 354, 355.

Belfast—Constabulary Sergeants, Period of Service of, *June 20*, 152.

Birth Certificates, Charges for Copies of, *June 27*, 941.

China and the Opium Trade—Parliamentary proposals for dealing with Question, *June 19*, 36.

Congested Districts Board, Land Clerks Employed by, *June 20*, 185.

Constabulary

Farrell, Head-Constable, Charges against—Evidence of Shankey and Bradley, etc., *June 25*, 627.

Fund, Amount to Credit of, etc., *June 27*, 942.

Drumtullagh School Teacher's Residence, Conditions of Loan for, *June 21*, 377; *June 25*, 660.

Education—Intermediate Board, Parliamentary Control over, *June 26*, 790.

Enniskillen Post Office Learner, Pay of, *June 25*, 619.

Land Commission.

Land Clerks, etc., Employed by, *June 20*, 186.

Wilkinson, Mr., Qualifications of, *June 20*, 184.

Magilligan Camp Post Office, Clerk in Charge of. *June 25*, 589.

Malta

Protestant Mission Services, Reason for Prohibiting, *June 19*, 35.

Religious Processions, Regulations as to, *June 26*, 766.

Manchester Estate—Reinstatement of S. Bainey, *June 21*, 377, 378.

Questions, Irish, answered Orally—Supply of Copies to Members proposed, *June 28*, 1108.

Roughfort School, Closing of, Reason for Dismissal of Teacher, etc., *July 2*, 1398.

Small Holdings

Committee, Evidence given before in Scotland, etc.
Q. Mr. R. L. Harmsworth; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *July 2*, 1391.

Smeaton, Mr. D. M. [Stirlingshire]
  Ceylon Pearl Fisheries, Conditions of Leasing, *June 27*, 924, 925; *July 3*, 1615.
  Education Bill—Clause 36, dropping of proposed, *June 26*, 777.
  Indian Army—Rule as to Counting Militia Service in South African War, *July 2*, 1380.
  Scottish Estimates, proposals as to taking, *June 20*, 196.
  Vivisection Returns, Expediting Publication of, proposed, *June 20*, 170.

Smith, Mr. A. H. [Herts., Hertford]
  Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 26*, 853, 854.
  Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 22*, 514; *June 29*, 1265, 1266, 1283–1285.

Smith, Mr. F. E. [Liverpool, Walton]
  Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 26*, 822–826.

Smith, Mr. T. [Leitrim, S.]
  Carrigallen Postal Facilities, Improvement of, *June 25*, 588.
  Cloontabrit Bogs, Disposal of, *June 19*, 49.
  Madden Estate—Reinstatement Applications of Mr. A. Kiernan and F. McHugh, *June 19*, 50; *July 2*, 1384.

Smith Mr. W. F. D. [Strand, Westminster]
  Motor Omnibuses—Regulations as to Weight and Size, etc., *July 3*, 1596.

Soares, Mr. E. J. [Devon, Barnstaple]
  Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 20*, 281; *July 2*, 1499–1501; *July 3*, 1667.
  Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 22*, 500, 503, 506, 510, 528, 529, 546; *June 29*, 1272, 1286–1288, 1308.

Society Islands
  Trade Report Presented, *June 21*, 298.

Soldiers' & Sailors' Families' Association
  Exclusion of Widows and Daughters of Officers risen from the Ranks from certain Benefits, alleged.
    Qs. Mr. Morton; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *June 21*, 355, 356.

Solicitor-General
  Sir W. S. Robson.

Solicitor-General for Ireland
  Mr. R. Barry.

Solicitor-General for Scotland
  Mr. A. Ure.

Somerset House
  Search Room—Additional Registers and Accommodation for Search, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Barran; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 28*, 1142, 1143.

Soudan
  Bahr-el-Ghazal—Date of Evacuation by Congolese Troops.
    Qs. Mr. Lonsdale, Lord Turnour; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *July 2*, 1414.

South African War
  Chiveiback, Dr., Claim of, for Compensation.
    Q. Mr. J. M. Robertson; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 25*, 641.
  Natives, Firearms issued to and returned by.
    Q. Mr. Belloc; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 25*, 633.
  Official History
    Stores and Commissariat Inquiry, Inclusion of Report of.
      Q. Mr. H. R. Mansfield; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 19*, 33.
  Standard and Diggers News, Military Use of Premises, Plant, etc., of—Basis of Payment.
    Qs. Mr. Scott, Mr. Paul, Mr. Lehmann; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *June 25*, 634–636.
    Qs. Mr. Scott; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *June 28*, 1125, 1126, *July 3*, 1598, 1599, 1613–1615.

South Kensington Technological College
  Proposals as to Establishing.
    Qs. Sir W. J. Collins, Sir P. Magnus; *As.* Mr. Lough, *June 26*, 776, 777.

South Lancashire Tramways Bill
  l. Royal Assent, *June 22*, 465.

South Lincolnshire Water Bill
  c. Rep. July 3*, 1590.

South Suburban Gas Bill
  l. 2R.* *June 19*, 3.
    Rep. July 3*, 1558.

Southampton
  Docks—Position of Telegraph Office, etc.
    Q. Lieutenant-Colonel Philipps; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 28*, 1097, 1098.

Southampton Gas Bill
  c. Lords' Amendts., *Con.* June 21*, 339.

Southwell, Bishop of
  Greenwich Observatory, Erection of London County Council Power Station near, Effect on Instruments, etc., *June 21*, 337.

Spain
  Customs Tariff, New, Effect of—Progress of Negotiations, etc.
    Qs. Mr. R. Duncan; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *June 25*, 645, 646.
  Trade Report Presented, *June 21*, 298.

Speaker's Rulings

Abuse of Rules of the House, Definition of, *June 26*, 801.

Divisions—Members Voting in Wrong Lobby, *June 19*, 58, 59.

Imputation of Personal Motives, not in Order, *July 2*, 1554.

Labourers (Ireland) Bill—Procedure in appointing Additional Member to Standing Committee on Law, *June 27*, 953.

Land Tenure Bill

Agricultural Labourer, Interests of, within the Scope of the Bill, *June 22*, 557, 558.

Amendment as to Alteration in Date of coming into Operation; if negatived, same Date could not be proposed again, *June 22*, 516.

Amendments out of Order, *June 22*, 557.

Matter outside Scope of Debate, Introduction of, out of Order, *June 22*, 503, 518, 544, 547; *June 29*. 1295, 1297, 1309.

Motion to which Objection was taken must stand over, *June 25*, 743.

Opposition to Bill, Right of Chairman to ask Member if he objected, *June 26*. 912.

Questions, *see that title.*

Time Limit for Speeches on Introduction of a Bill, *June 26*, 800.

Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill

Adjournment of Debate, Member entitled to give Reasons for, *June 26*, 901.

Amendment in Order, *June 26*, 896.

Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill, Point of Order, Definition of, *June 26*, 902.

Spicer, Mr. A. [Hackney, Central]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., June 25*, 706.

Spotted Fever

Compulsory Notification of, proposed.
Q. Mr. C. E. Schwann; *A*. Mr. Burns, *July 2*, 1421.

Stamford, Earl of

Municipal Corporations Bill, 2R., *June 19*, 6, 7.

Stamps

See under Post Office

Stanley, Mr. A. L. [Cheshire, Eddisbury]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, Illiterate Petitioners against, *June 28*, 1148.

Stanmore, Lord

Union Jack on Victoria Tower, Lowering to half-mast on Death of Premiers of Self-governing Colonies, proposed—Case of Late Mr. Seddon, *June 28*, 1088.

Starkey, Mr. J. R. [Notts, Newark]

Education (England and Wales) Bill. *Com., June 26*, 854, 855.

Start Bay

Naval Firing Practice—Alleged Forcible Removal of Fishermen, etc.
Q. Mr. Mildmay; *A.* Mr. E Roberston, *June 26*, 753.

Steadman, Mr. W. C. [Finsbury, Central]

Cab-driver (Badge 16,872) Reason for Refusal to Renew Licence to, *June 25*, 616.

Mall to Charing Cross new Roadway. Reason for Delay in Opening, *June 25*, 618.

Post Office

Gates, Mr. F., Case of, *June 28*, 1114.

Travelling Post Offices, Accidents to—Compensation paid to Employees, etc., *June 28*, 1113.

Steel Trade

Agreements as to price, etc.
Qs. Mr. Chiozza-Money; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *July 3*, 1625, 1626.

Stewart, Mr. H. [Greenock]

Edinburgh—Precautions against escapes from Morningside Asylum, *June 21*. 371, 372.

Stoke

Post Office Premises, Condition of
Qs. Mr. J. Ward, *June 21*, 450; Mr. Buxton, 456.

Straboe

Water Supply of Mr. Dowling's Mill, Alleged Cutting away of, by Railway Company.
Q. Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *July 2*, 1393.

Strachey, Sir E. [Somerset, S.]

Cattle imported for Immediate Slaughter, Removal of Restrictions on, proposed, *July 2*, 1380.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, Complaints and Prosecutions under—Return proposed, *June 21*, 347.

Forestry—Progress made with Schemes, *June 20*, 160.

Kew Gardens

Cambridge Cottage, Proposals for Utilising, *July 2*, 1392.

[*cont.*

Strachey, Sir E.—*cont.*
Kew Gardens—*cont.*
Complaints by Employees, Procedure in making, *July 2*, 1379.
Date of Issuing Guide to No. 1, Museum, *June 25*, 658.
Plants given, Received and Exchanged during last Five Years, *June 27*, 936.
Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 22*, 515, *June 29*, 1259.
Northumberland Sheep Dipping Order, Operation of, *June 20*, 174.
Ordnance Maps
Charge for, *June 20*, 160.
Issue of, on Scale of two Inches to the Mile, proposed, *June 21*, 347.
Ordnance Survey—Seventh Division, Proposals as to, *June 21*, 346.
Small Holdings Committee, Evidence given before in Scotland, *July 2*, 1391.

Strangers in Blood Interpretation Bill
c. 1R.* *June 20*, 197.

Straus, Mr. B. S. [Tower Hamlets, Mile End]
London County Council (Money) Bill, *Con.*, *June 21*, 448, 449.
Russian Anti-Semitic Disturbances.
British Government Representations proposed, *June 25*, 615.
Report on, by British Ambassador, proposed, *June 27*, 917.

Street Betting Bill
1R.* *June 21*, 388.

Stratford
Shop Hours Act, Order Made under, Presented, *June 19*, 5, 20.

Stuart, Mr. J. [Sunderland]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 26*, 864; *June 27*, 969, 981; *July 3*, 1702.

Sugar
Brussels Convention—Proceedings (Spring Session 1906) Presented, *June 29*, 1251; *July 2*, 1335.

Sullivan, Mr. D. [Westmeath, S.]
Wilson Estate—Bog Rights of Mr. Duff's Sub-tenants, *July 3*, 1607.

Summary Jurisdiction Children Bill
c. Order for Second Reading Read, etc., and Bill Withdrawn, *June 20*, 295.

Summerbell, Mr. T. [Sunderland]
Kew Gardens—Procedure in Representations by Employees, *July 2*, 1379.
Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill, Instruction to Committee, *June 26*, 895, 896.

Supreme Court of Judicature (Ireland) Bill
c. 1R.* *June 19*, 61.

Sutherlandshire
Colonisation of, proposed.
Os. Mr. Morton, *June 21*, 421.
Deer Forest, Restriction on Breaking up of Homesteads to form, proposed.
Qs. Mr. Morton; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *June 19*, 42; *July 3*, 1631–1633.

Sutton, Southcotes and Drypool Gas Bill
l. Rep. June 19*, 2.
3R.* *June 22*, 467.
c. Lords' Amends., *Con.*,* *June 28*, 1092.

Sweating
Royal Commission into, proposed.
Qs. Mr. O'Grady; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *July 3*, 1636, 1637.

Sweden
Trade Report, Presented, *July 3*, 1560.

Talbot, Lord E. [Sussex, Chichester]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 25*, 677–679.

Talbot, Mr. J. G. [Oxford University]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 72; *June 26*, 857–859.
Committee and Report Stages, Interval between, *July 3*, 1610.

Taxation
Collection and Assessment System
Alteration in, proposed.
Qs. Mr. Sears; *As.* Mr. Asquith, *June 21*, 361–363.
Control by Inland Revenue Board, Acts Authorising.
Q. Mr. Sears; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *July 3*, 1621.
Multiplication of Offices, alleged Confusion from.
Q. Mr. Sears; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *July 3*, 1621, 1622.
Surveyors of Taxes, *Status* of, etc.
Q. Mr. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *June 21*, 348.

Taylor, Mr. A. [Liverpool, E. Toxteth]
Ecclesiastical Dicipline Commission Report, Date of Circulating, *June 28*, 1116.
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 74–76; *June 20*, 226, 230; *July 2*, 1437, 1515, 1516.
Provisions of, *June 27*, 957.

Tea
Duty on, Remission of 1d. per pound—Budget Proposal.
Os. Viscount St. Aldwyn, *June 21*, 300; Marquess of Ripon, 319.

Telegraph Service

See also names of places.

Central Telegraph Office

Increments of certain Overseers, etc., Reason for Withholding.
Q. Mr. C. J. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 26,* 752.

Staff — Number Attached to Engineers Department.
Q. Mr. Seaverns; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 25,* 619, 620.

Messengers, Conditions of Employment, and Prospects of.
Os. Mr. J. Ward, *June 21,* 450; Mr. Buxton, 456.

Rural Districts, Improvement of Facilities for, proposed.
Q. Mr. R. L. Harmsworth; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *July 3,* 1600, 1601.

Scotland—underground Wires, Progress made with laying of.
Os. Mr. M. Ferguson, *June 21,* 452; Mr. Buxton, 457.

Telegrams

Loss on.
Os. Mr. Buxton, *June 21,* 389; Mr. Heaton, 400; Sir F. Banbury, 424, 425.

Sunday Telegrams, allowing greater Facilities for despatch of.
Os. Mr. Dalziel, *June 21,* 453.

Surcharges on, for Delivery after Business Hours.
Os. Mr. Bridgeman, *June 21,* 451.

Wireless Telegraphy, *see that title.*

Telephone Service

See also names of places.

Development of, satisfactory state of Revenue, etc.
Os. Mr. Buxton, *June 21,* 389.

Ireland, Extension of Facilities in, proposed.
O. Mr. C. Devlin, *June 21,* 432.

Metropolitan area, Establishment of uniform Boundary, proposed.
Os. Mr. E. H. Lamb, *June 21,* 454.

Rural Districts, Extension of Facilities in.
Os. Mr. Buxton, *June 21,* 392.

Tennant, Mr. H. J. [Berwickshire]

Manchester—Rateable Value and Municipal Representation, *June 21,* 348.

Workmen's Compensation Bill—Definition of Domestic Servants, *June 25,* 588.

Terryglass

Graveyard, Condition of.
Q. Mr. Hogan; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2,* 1387, 1388.

Thames Estuary

Lighting, buoying, etc.—Proposals as to Barrow Deep.
Q. Mr. J. D. White; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 21,* 344.

Thomasson, Mr. F. [Leicester]

Bisset, Mr. C., Case of, *June 28,* 1112.

Education Board Library, Preparation of Catalogue, to proposed, *June 29,* 1256.

Thomastown Union

Evicted Tenants, Claims of.
Q. Mr. O'Mara; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 28,* 1098.

Thorne, Mr. W. [West Ham, S.]

Russian Anti-Semitic Outrages, etc., proposed British Representations, *June 21,* 360; *June 28,* 1132.

Railway rates for.
Q. Mr. D. Davies; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George *July 2,* 1418.

Tin Trade

Gambling in, Effect on British Trade, etc.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *July 2,* 1392.

Tomkinson, Mr. J. [Cheshire, Crewe]

Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill, 2R., *June 26,* 896–898.

Instruction to Committee, *June 26,* 896, 903.

Tottenham and Edmonton Gas Bill

l. 2R.* *June 19,* 3.

Town Tenants Bill

Proposals as to.
Q. Mr. V. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19,* 51.

Trade, Board of

President—Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd-George.

Parliamentary Secretary—Mr. H. E. Kearley.

Trade Disputes

International Co-operation for Settlemen of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Wedgwood; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman. *June 25,* 661.

Trade Marks

Ireland, Establishment of special Trade Mark for, proposed.
Os. Mr. Boland, *June 28,* 1213, 1214.

Trade Reports
Annual Series, Presented, *June 19*, 21, 147; *June 21*, 298; *June 22*, 468, 496; *June 25*, 563, 585; *June 26*, 751; *June 27*, 1083, 1094; *July 2*, 1335, 1372; *July 3*, 1560, 1594.

Trade and Commerce
Commercial Agents of British and Foreign Countries, Number of, etc.
Q. Mr. Laidlaw; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *June 28*, 1110, 1111.

Trading Stamps
Prohibition of Use of, proposed—Bill introduced into Jersey States Assembly, etc.
Qs. Mr. J. Ward; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 19*, 37.

Tralee
Post Office, Date of building.
Q. Mr. T. O'Donnell; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *July 2*, 1431, 1432.

Tram Cars
Electric, Accidents to, on steep Gradients—Inquiry into Brake System, proposed.
Q. Mr. T. Davies; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 27*, 918.
Qs. Mr. Myer, Mr. J. Henderson, Mr. Waterlow, Mr. Cairns, Mr. Shackleton; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 27*, 931, 932.

Tramps
See Vagrants.

Tramway Schemes
Borough Councils' Right of Veto, Abolition of, proposed,
Q. Mr. Cooper; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 28*, 1142.

Tramways Orders Confirmation Bill
l. Report from Select Committee, *July 2*, 1333.
Com., *July 3*, 1559.

Transvaal
Chinese Labourers
Cason Mine Prosecution, Information as to.
Qs. Mr. Fell; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *June 28*, 1128, 1129.
Qs. Sir J. Kennaway, Mr. Gibbs, Sir G. Parker, Mr. J. R. Macdonald; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *July 2*, 1405-1407.
Control Commission, Constitution of
Q. Mr. Mond; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 21*, 343, 344.
Corporal Punishment—Decision as to Prosecution of Witthauer.
Q. Mr. Mackarness; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *June 25*, 640.

Transvaal—*cont.*
Chinese Labourers—*cont.*
Crimes—Measures for Protection of White People, etc.
Q. Mr. Mond; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 21*, 343.
Q. Mr. Ward; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 21*, 357, 358.
Qs. Major Seely, Mr. Byles, Mr. J. Ward, Mr. Paul; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *June 28*, 1127, 1128.
Q. Mr. Mond; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 28*, 1129.
"Indravelli" and "Cranley" Antecedents and Destinations of Arrivals, etc.
Q. Mr. J. M. Robertson; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 25*, 641.
Nourse Mine Riot, Reason of.
Qs. Mr. Mond; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *June 21*, 343; *June 28*, 1129.
Repatriation
Number of Coolies applying for.
Q. Mr. Ward; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 28*, 1130.
Translation of Notification into Chinese, Precautions against Inaccuracy, etc.
Q. Mr. Verney; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 20*, 156.
Qs. Mr. Gooch, Mr. Verney; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *June 20*, 167.
Qs. Mr. J. C. Wason, Mr. Bottomley, Mr. Blake; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *June 21*, 358, 359.
Q. Mr. Essex; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 27*, 916, 917.
Qs. Mr. Bottomley, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Myer, Major Seely; *As.* Mr. Churchill, Mr. Speaker, *June 28*, 1124, 1125.
"Tremblingly Obey," etc., Use of Term in Text of Notification.
Qs. Mr. Mackarness, Sir H. Cotton, Mr. Gooch, Mr. C. Edwards, Mr. Dalziel; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *June 25*, 636-638.
Q. Mr. C. Edwards; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 28*, 1129, 1130.
Twelve Coolies, Present Location of, etc.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *July 2*, 1409.
Customs Tariff, New, Information as to.
Q. Mr. Wedgwood; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 19*, 35.

Transvaal—*cont.*
Estate, etc., Duty, English, Levy of.
Q. Mr. Grove; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 27*, 916.
Labour for the Mines (*see also subheadings* Chinese Labour, and Native Labour).
Re-introduction of Indiscriminate Recruiting, Allegations as to.
Os. Lord Harris, *June 29*, 1240, 1242–1244; Earl of Elgin, 1244–1247.
Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, Recruiting System of.
Os. Lord Harris, *June 20*, 1241–1244; Earl of Elgin, 1245, 1246.
Native Labour
Kaffirs in Various Employments on 31st May, 1906.
Q. Mr. Lea; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *July 2*, 1390.
Number Employed, Duties of.
Q. Mr. Nield; *A.* Mr. Churchil, *June 20*, 155.
Recruiting, Facilities for and Proposals as to.
Qs. Mr. Mackarness, Sir G. Parker, Mr. Rees; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *July 2*, 1408, 1409.
Trade Routes to Coast.
Modus Vivendi with Portugal, Nature of,
Qs. Mr. Molteno; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *June 25*, 643, 644.
Statistics as to.
Q. Mr. Molteno; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 25*, 614.
Trust Estates, Levy of English Duty on.
Q Mr. Grove; *A.* Sir J. Walton, *June 25*, 586.
War Contribution Loan, Enforcement of Payment of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *July 2*, 1399.

Trawlers' Certificates Suspension Bill
Proposals as to Taking.
Qs. Mr. Weir; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *July 2*, 1432.

Trawling
Protection of Fishing Grounds, Admiralty Assistance for, etc.
Qs. Mr. Power, Mr. Joyce; *As.* Mr. Bryce, Mr. Speaker, *June 26*, 790, 791.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair *July 2*, 1430.
Steam Trawlers, Extension of Irish Areas forbidden to, Proposed.
Q. Mr. Power; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 45, 46.

Treasury
First Lord—Rt. Hon. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman,

Trent Navigation Companies' Bill
c. Rep. June 21*, 340.
Con. June 27*, 913.
3R.* *July 2*, 1370.
l. Commons' Amendts. *Con.* July 3*, 1558.

Trevelyan, Mr. C. P. [Yorks., W.R., Elland]
Charity Commission—Capital Invested and Agricultural Land sold by, during last ten years, *June 19*, 42.
Holme Lacy—Proposals as to Prynces Charity, *June 26*, 756.
Northumberland Sheep Dipping Order, Operation of, *June 20*, 174.
Russian Anti-Semitic Disturbances—British Government Representations proposed, *June 26*, 768.
Shrewsbury Municipal Charities Scheme, Reason for Delay as to, *June 28*, 1149.
Women's Suffrage Disturbance in Cavendish Square—Sentence on Miss Billington, etc., *June 21*, 366.

Trinity College, Dublin
See under Ireland.

Truro Gas Bill
c. 2R.* *June 27*, 913.

Trustees, Public
Department, cost of Establishing.
Q. Mr. J. Henderson; *A.* Sir J. Walton, *June 28*, 1148.

Tse-Tse Fly
Report of Dr. Davey, Date of Presenting.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *June 25*, 644.

Turkey
Baghdad Railway, *see that title.*
Customs Tariff, proposed Increase in
British Trade, Effect on.
Os. Lord Newton, *July 2*, 1338, 1341; Lord Fitzmaurice, 1344, 1345; Marquess of Lansdowne, 1353.
Conditions of British Government Sanction.
Os. Lord Fitzmaurice, *July 2*, 1346, 1347, 1349, 1354; Lord Sanderson, 1352; Marquess of Lansdowne, 1353, 1354, 1359.
Machinery for carrying out—Ottoman Debt Commission, proposed.
Os. Lord Fitzmaurice, *July 2*, 1348; Marquess of Lansdowne, 1357.
Papers relating to—Tabling, proposed.
Os. Lord Newton, *July 2*, 1338, 1360; Lord Fitzmaurice, 1360.

[*cont.*

Turkey—*cont.*

Customs Tariff—*cont.*

Progress of Negotiations.

Os. Lord Fitzmaurice, *July 2,* 1349, 1350; Marquess of Lansdowne, 1359; Marquess of Ripon, 1359, 1360.

Erzeroum—Trade Report Presented, *June 25,* 563.

Euphrates Valley, Unrest in—Measures for Protection of British Subjects, etc.

Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *July 2,* 1415.

Salonica—Trade Report Presented, *June 28,* 1083.

Trade Reports Presented, *June 25,* 563; *June 28,* 1083.

Turnour, Lord [Sussex, Horsham]

Land Tenure Bill, *Con., June 22,* 505; *June 29,* 1272, 1291, 1292.

Sudan—Date of Evacuation of Bahr-el-Ghazal, *July 2,* 1414.

War Office Meat Contracts — Effect of New Rules on Agricultural Interests, *June 19,* 34.

Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill —Instruction to Committee, *June 26,* 903.

Tweedmouth, Lord—*First Lord of the Admiralty*

Greenwich Observatory, Erection of London County Council Power Station near—Safeguarding against Injury to Instruments, etc., *June 21,* 326–328, 336, 337.

Uig

Medical Officer, Provision of House for.

Q. Mr. J. Dewar; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *July 2,* 1429.

Unemployed

Colonies, Number Emigrated to, etc.

Q. Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 29,* 1254, 1255.

Distress Committees, Form of Financial Statement — Regulations Presented, *June 21,* 298, 341.

Employment, Effect of Increased Taxation on.

Q. Mr. Cox; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 26,* 797.

Parliamentary Proposals for dealing with Question.

Q. Mr. Pickersgill; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 28,* 1158.

Unemployed Workmen Amendment Bill

Proposals as to.

Qs. Mr. K. Hardie; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 19,* 58.

Qs. Mr. Pickersgill, Mr. K. Hardie; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *June 20,* 195.

United States of America

Canned Meat, *see* Canned Foodstuffs.

Trade Report Presented, *July 2,* 1335.

University College

Vivisection of Porter's Dog, alleged—Advertisement of National Canine Defence League.

Q. Sir P. Magnus; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *July 2,* 1417.

University Colleges

Grants—Terms of Reference of Commission.

Q. Dr. Cooper; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *June 22,* 496.

Ure, Mr. A.—*Solicitor General for Scotland* [Linlithgow]

Land Tenure Bill, *Con., June 22,* 520, 533; *June 29,* 1261.

Uxbridge Gas Bill

l. Report from Select Committee, *June 29,* 1237.

Vaccination

Exemption Certificates, Procedure in Granting—Amendment of Law, proposed.

Q. Mr. Lupton; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *July 2,* 1416.

National Vaccine Establishment, Stock of Lymph of.

Q. Sir W. J. Collins; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 28,* 1115, 1116.

Vagrants

Proposals for dealing with.

Q. Mr. Marnham; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 27,* 933.

Valentia, Lord [Oxford]

Post Office—Reduction of Postage on Literature for the Blind, *June 21,* 411, 412.

Venezuela

Caracas—Trade Report Presented, *June 28,* 1083.

Verney, Mr. F. W. [Bucks., N.]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., June 20,* 245; *June 27, 972.*

Industrial Condition of Ireland—Commission of Inquiry into, etc., *June 28,* 1223, 1224.

Transvaal Chinese Labour Notification, Translation of, into Chinese, *June 20,* 156, 167.

Villiers, Mr. E. A. [Brighton]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com. June 27,* 959–961.

Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. [Sheffield, Central]
  Merchandise Marks Act, Amendment of, proposed, *July 2*, 1421.
  Political Pensions Act Abolition Bill, Government Attitude towards, *June 25*, 630.
  Public Trustee Bill, Expediting Passage of, proposed, *June 25*, 663.

Vivian, Mr. H. [Birkenhead]
  Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill, 2R., *June 26*, 905.

Vivisection
  Experiments—Reason for Increase in Number of.
    Qs. Mr. G. Greenwood; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 28*, 1137, 1138.
  Returns
    Expediting Publication of, proposed. *Q.* Mr. Smeaton; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 20*, 170.
    Presented, *June 19*, 20.

Volunteers
  Ammunition, Regulations as to Supply of. *Q.* Mr. Courthope; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 21*, 355.
  Brigades, Officers Appointed to Command—Return Ordered, *July 2*, 1375.
  Ordnance Factory Employees, Pay of, during Camp Training.
    Q. Colonel Lockwood; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 28*, 1121.
  Scotch Regiments attached to other Brigades for Camp Training, Allowances of.
    Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 26*, 762, 763.

Wages Boards Bill
  Facilities for, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Chiozza Money; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *July 3*, 1637.

Wakeley Estate
  Sale Proposals for.
    Q. Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 612.

Walker, Col. W. H. [Lancashire, S.W., Widnes]
  Education (England and Wales) Bill—Clause 4, Effect of, *July 2*, 1427.

Walker, Mr. H. de R. [Leicestershire, Melton]
  Canada, Emigration to, on False Representations—Legislative Measures for Prevention, *June 25*, 663.

Walsh Estate
  Purchase Proposals for.
    Q. Mr. O'Mara; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1386.

Walters, Mr. J. T. [Sheffield, Brightside]
  Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *July 2*, 1437–1440.

Walton, Mr. J. [Yorks., W.R., Barnsley]
  China Customs Edict, Effect of, etc., *July 3*, 1597.
  Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 26*, 875, 876.

Walton, Sir J. L.—*Attorney-General* [Leeds, S.]
  Agents and Canvassers Trading in Opposition to late Employers, Legislation to Prevent, proposed, *June 27*, 920.
  Magistrates, Fees on Appointment of, *July 2*, 1378.
  Transvaal Trust Estates, Levy of English Duty on, *June 25*, 586.
  Trustees, Public—Cost of Establishing Department, *June 28*, 1148.
  Worcester Election, Corrupt Practices at—Appointment of Commission of Inquiry into, proposed, *June 25*, 743.

War Office
  Secretary of State—Rt. Hon. R. B. Haldane.
  Parliamentary Under-Secretary—Earl of Portsmouth.
  Financial Secretary—Mr. T. R. Buchanan.
  Contracts
    British-grown Products, Re-consideration of Decision as to, proposed.
      Q. Mr. McNeill; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 27*, 920. 921.
    Meat Contracts
      American Firms, Reason for Employment of.
        Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 21*, 352.
      Canned Foodstuffs, *see that title.*
      Specifications—Home-killed Beef substituted for Home-bred Beef, Reasons for.
        Qs. Earl of Mayo, *June 28*, 1088 - 1090; Earl of Portsmouth, 1090.
        Q. Mr. E. Barry; *A.* Mr. Buchanan, *June 20*, 165, 166.
      Effect of New System on Irish Agricultural Interests, etc.
        Qs. Mr. McHugh; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 19*, 29.
        Qs. Mr. O'Dowd, Lord Turnour; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *June 19*, 33, 34.
        Q. Mr. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Buchanan, *June 25*, 633.

Ward, Mr. J. [Stoke-on-Trent]
- Cement Works, Sanitation of, etc., *June 28*, 1140.
- Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com., June 20*, 264, 265; *June 27*, 1021.
  - Rates, Exemption of Council Schools from, proposed, *June 19*, 40.
- Guiana, British—Reply to Memorial from Inhabitants, *June 28*, 1130.
- Natal native Rising—Alleged Employment of Prisoners in Kimberley Mines, *June 20*, 168.
- Post Office
  - Messengers, Conditions of Employment, and Prospects of, *June 21*, 450.
  - Stoke Postal Premises, Condition of, *June 21*, 450.
  - Work of Westminister Construction Company, Wages paid, etc., *June 19*, 39.
- Scathwaite Tarn Waterworks, Cause of Explosion at, *June 21*, 467.
- Trading Stamps, Prohibition of use of, etc., *June 19*, 37.
- Transvaal Chinese Labourers
  - Crimes—Measures for Protection of White People, etc., *June 21*, 357
  - Importation, Date of Stopping, *June 28*, 1128.
  - Repatriation, Number Applying for, *June 28*, 1130.
- Women Suffragists, Disturbances created by—Arrest and Imprisonment of Miss Billington, *June 21*, 464.

Wardle, Mr. G. J. [Stockport]
- Railways—Danger of Practice of Banking Train up Inclines by means of Uncoupled Engine, *June 26*, 775.
- Salisbury Railway Accident—Proposals as to Inquiry, etc., *July 2*, 1419.

Warner, Mr. T. C. T. [Stafford, Lichfield]
- Land Tenure Bill, *Con., June 29*, 1294.

Wason, Mr. E. [Clackmannan and Kinross]
- Women's Suffrage Disturbance in Cavendish Square—Sentence on Miss Billington, *June 21*, 464.

Wason, Mr. J. C. [Orkney and Shetland]
- Africa, East
  - Slavery, Progress made with Abolition of, *July 3*, 1611.
  - Sleeping Sickness, Precautions against, Removal of Seat of Government from Entebbe, etc., proposed, *June 28*, 1123, 1124.
  - Timber Concession, Conditions of, *July 3*, 1612, 1613.
- Nigeria—Restrictions on Liquor Traffic, *June 28*, 1131.

Wason, Mr. J. C.—*cont.*
- Poor Law Medical Officers, Holiday Regulations for, *July 3*, 1633.
- Post Office
  - Northern Islands and Districts, Extension of Facilities in proposed, *June 21*, 416–418, 426.
  - Sub-Postmasters, Remuneration of, Increasing, proposed, *June 21*, 416.
  - Sunday Deliveries in Scotland, Abolition of, proposed, *June 28*, 1144.
- Punishments in Public, Discontinuance of, in Countries under the British Flag, proposed, *July 2*, 1433.
- Teacher's Pensions, Increase of, proposed, *June 21*, 373.
- Transvaal Chinese Labourers—Repatriation Notification, Translation of, *June 21*, 358.

Watches
- Imported in parts, Alleged Evasion of Act by not marking.
  - *Q.* Mr. Seddon; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 20*, 172.

Water Orders Confirmation Bill
- *l. Com.* * *June 25*, 561.
  - *Rep.* * *June 26*, 747.
  - 3R.* *June 28*, 1082.
- *c.* 1R.* *June 29*, 1250.

Water Provisional Order Bill
- *c. Rep.* * *June 21*, 339.
  - *Con.* * and 3R.* *June 22*, 494.
- *l.* 1R.* *June 22*, 468.
  - 2R.* *June 29*, 1238.

Waterford
- Toll Bridge—Obligation on Fishguard and Rosslare Company to contribute to New Bridge, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. Power; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *June 28*, 1100.

Waterford Corporation and Bridge Bill
- *l.* Report from Select Committee, *June 29*, 1237.
  - 3R.* *July 3*, 1558.

Waterlow, Mr. D. S. [Islington, N.]
- Tramcars, Electric, Brakes used on, *June 27*, 932.

Watt, Mr. H. A. [Glasgow College]
- Glasgow Post Office Medical Officers, Decision as to, *June 28*, 1146.
  - Appointment of Female Medical Officer, proposed, *June 28*, 1098.

Watt, H., Case of
- Shuttle, Provision of Funds for Emigration to Canada.
  - *Q.* Mr. Bottomley; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *July 2*, 1378.

Wedgwood, Mr. J. C. [Newcastle under-Lyme]

Trade Disputes, International Co-operation for Settlement of, proposed, *June 25*, 661.

Transvaal Customs Tariff, New, Information as to, *June 19*, 35.

Workmen's Compensation Bill—Insurance, State Scheme for, proposed, *June 20*, 170.

Weedon

Government Stores, Pay of Writers in.
Q. Mr. Grove; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 27*, 921, 922.

Weir, Mr. J. G. [Ross and Cromarty]

Canned Foodstuffs—Prevention of Re-labelling of Old Stock, *July 2*, 1423.

Congested Districts Board, Settlements on the Land, Conditions of, *July 2*, 1430.

Crofters Act Amendment Bill, Date of Introducing, *June 25*, 658.

Crofters, Terms of Loans to, *July 2*, 1431.

Dingwall and Cromarty Light Railway, Progress Made with, *June 25*, 615.

Egypt—British Officers, Attack on, *June 21*, 342.

Great Northern Railway Bill, *Con.*, *June 25*, 738.

Highland Crofting Counties and the School Board Franchise—Proposals as to Return, *June 25*, 659.

Lewis, Island of.

Migration of Cottars to Mainland—Application from Upper Bayble, etc., *June 25*, 658; *June 26*, 752.

Sanitary Condition, proposals for Improving, *June 25*, 659.

Schools, Proposals for Improving Water Supply of, *June 25*, 658.

Local Government Board Report, Date of issuing, *June 21*, 341.

Moray Firth Trawling Appeal, Progress Made with, *July 2*, 1430.

Motor Accidents in London Area, during May, *June 25*, 647.

Railways, Light—Increase of Treasury Grants for Crofting Counties, proposed, *June 25*, 654.

Ross-shire Schools, Proposals for Improving Water Supply of, *June 25*, 658.

Scottish Estimates, Proposals as to Taking, *June 25*, 667.

Trawlers' Certificate Suspension Bill, proposals as to taking, *July 2*, 1432.

Trawling—Additional Cruiser for Protection of Fishing Grounds, proposed, *July 2*, 1430.

Welby, Lord

Coal Duty, Abolition of, *June 21*, 307, 308.

Finance Bill, 2R., *June 21*, 307–311.

India, Financial Stability of, Necessity for Maintaining, *June 21*, 309–311.

National Debt, Position of, Provision made for Reduction, etc., *June 21*, 308–311.

Wellington College

Report and Accounts (1905) Presented, *June 19*, 4, 20.

West Yorkshire Tramways Bill

c. 2R.* *June 21*, 339.

Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill

c. 1R.* *June 19*, 17.
2R.* *July 2*, 1370.

Wexford

Arbitration Awards to J. Clancy and W. Francis, Basis of Fixing.
Q. Mr. Ffrench; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1387.

Whiskey

Definition of.
Q. Mr. S. Young; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *June 28*, 1136.

White, Mr. G. [Norfolk, N.W.]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 25*, 725, 726; *July 3*, 1674, 1675.

White, Mr. J. D. [Dumbartonshire]

Ceylon Pearl Fisheries, Conditions of Leasing, *July 2*, 1407, 1408.

Egypt—Attack on British Officers, Sentences inflicted, etc., *July 2*, 1413.

Merchant Shipping Statutory Rules, etc., Revision of, proposed, *July 3*, 1601.

Patent Office Report (1905) Statement made in, *June 21*, 468.

Thames Estuary—Lighting and Buoying Proposals for Barrow Deep, *June 21*, 344.

White Estate

Reinstatement of Mr. Maloney.
Q. Mr. Halpin; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 186.

Whitehead, Mr. R. [Essex, S.E.]

Sheerness Firing Practice, Precautions against Danger from, *June 20*, 164.

Shoebury Firing Practice Regulations, *June 20*, 165.

Whiteley, Mr. G.—*Parliamentary Secretary of the Treasury* [Yorks., W.R., Pudsey]

Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 20*, 290.

Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill—Instruction to Committee, *June 26*, 902.

Wicklow
Harbour Works, Progress made with.
Q. Mr. Long ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 2*, 1395.

Wigan, Lord
Took the Oath, *June 21*, 297.

Williams, Col. R. [Dorset, W.]
Agriculture Vote, Date of Taking, *June 25*, 667.
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 133, 134 ; *June 20*, 261–264 ; *June 26*, 863.
Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 22*, 508.

Williams, Mr. W. L. [Carmarthen District]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 25*, 720–723.
Gilbert and Ellice Islands—Tabling Report as to Charges against Commissioner, proposed, *June 25*, 642.
Welsh Mine Inspection—Qualifications of Mr. Atkinson, etc., *June 26*, 770–772

Willoughby de Eresby, Lord [Lincolnshire. Horncastle]
Land Tenure Bill, *Con.*, *June 22*, 498, 499, 509 ; *June 29*, 1298, 1299.

Wilson, Mr. A. S. [Yorks., E.R., Holderness]
Kilnsea, Report on Coast Erosion at, *June 26*, 774.

Wilson, Mr. H. J. [Yorks., W.R., Holmfirth]
Education Bill, Illiterate Petitioners against *June 28*, 1149.

Wilson, Mr. J. W. [Worcestershire, N.]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 20*, 233, 270–273.

Wilson, Mr. W. T. [Lancashire, S.E., Westhoughton]
Bristol Telegraph Delays Inquiry into, *June 28*, 1114.
Post Office
Contracts, Conditions of Enforcement of Fair Wages Clause, etc., *June 21*, 456.
Learners, Delay in Promotion of, *June 21*, 456.

Wilson Estate
Duff, Mr. P., Bog Rights of Sub-tenants of.
Q. Mr. Sullivan ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *July 3*, 1607, 1608.
Reinstatement Claim of Mr. A. Mortland.
Q. Mr. MacVeagh ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 149.

Winfrey, Mr. R. [Norfolk, S.W.]
Poisons and Pharmacy Bill, Referring to Select Committee proposed, *June 27*, 915.

Wireless Telegraphy
Admiralty Agreement with Marconi Company.
Presented, *June 28*, 1084, 1096.
Tabling of, proposed.
Q. Mr. C. Hay ; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *June 28*, 1122, 1123.
Extension of System of, Progress made with.
Os. Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 389, 390.
Intercommunication between Ships with Marconi and other Systems, Agreement as to.
Q. Mr. Bellairs ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *June 28*, 1143.
Lloyds, Attack on the Post Office by
Os. Mr. Buxton, *June 21*, 389, 390, 459 ; Mr. W. Rutherford, 433, 434 ; Mr. C. Hay, 458, 459.
System used in Army and Navy, Regutions as to Intercommunication, etc.
Q. Mr. Bellairs ; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *June 28*, 1120.

Wireless Telegraphy Bill
Date of Taking Lords' Amendments.
Qs. Mr. C. Hay ; *As.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *July 2*, 1433.
Proposals as to.
Qs. Mr. Hay, Lord Balcarres ; *As.* Mr. Buxton, *June 28*, 1145.

Wirral Railway (Extension of Time) Bill
l. 2R., *June 26*, 894.

Women
Disturbance Created by, outside Residence of Chancellor of Exchequer—Sentence on Miss Billington.
Os. Mr. K. Hardie, *June 21*, 461, 462 ; Mr. Gladstone, 462 ; Mr. Byles, 462 ; Mr. Maddison; 462, 463 ; Mr. Shackleton, 463 ; Mr. A. Henderson, 463 ; Mr. E. Wason, 464 ; Mr. Seddon, 464 ; Mr. J. Ward, 464.
Qs. Mr. K. Hardie, Mr. Trevelyan ; *As.* Mr. Speaker, Mr. Gladstone, *June 21*, 365, 367.
Qs. Mr. Clynes, Mr. O'Grady ; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 25*, 648.

Wood, Mr. T. M. [Glasgow, St. Helen's]
London County Council (Money) Bill, *Con.*, *June 21*, 437-442, 443.

Woodford
Petty Sessions—Dog-licence Case of J. M'Mahon.
Q. Mr. J. Roche ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 27*, 951, 952.

Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues
Report of Commissioners, Presented, *June 29*, 1239, 1252.

Worcester
Parliamentary Election Petition
Corrupt Practices at—Appointment of Commission of Inquiry proposed—Address to the King.
Resolution (Sir J. Walton), *June 25*, 743, 744 ; *June 26*, 45.
Resolution (Lord Loreburn), *June 28*, 1090, 1091.
Minutes of Evidence, Copies of, Communicated to the Lords, *June 28*, 1081, 1083, 1160.

Workhouses
See also names of places.
Children in.
Q. Sir J. Kennaway ; *A.* Mr. Burns, *June 28*, 1115, 1116.
Master and Matron, Accommodation for Children of.
Q. Mr. MacVeagh ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 20*, 153, 154.

Workmen's Compensation Bill
c. Report from Standing Committee on Law, *June 26*, 799.
Domestic Servants, Definition of.
Q. Mr. Tennant ; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *June 25*, 588.
Insurance, State Scheme for, proposed.
Q. Mr. Wedgwood ; *A.* Gladstone, *June 20*, 170, 171.

Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. S. [Sheffield, Hallam]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 20*, 233, 280.

Wyndham, Rt. Hon. G. [Dover]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 19*, 123–126 ; *June 20*, 235, 246–248 ; *June 25*, 723–725 ; *June 27*, 976, 986 ; *July 3*, 1662–1664.

Wynne Estate
Sale of, Holdings excluded, etc.
Q. Mr. McHugh ; *A.* Mr. Bryce, *June 25*, 623, 624.

Young, Mr. S. [Cavan, E.]
Meteorological Office, Work of, and Grants to, *June 27*, 935.
Whisky, Definition of, *June 28*, 1136.

Younger, Mr. G. [Ayr, Burghs]
Campbeltown Postal Facilities, Improvement of, *June 25*, 618.
Motor Commission Report, Date of Presenting, *June 29*, 1255.
Rosyth Naval Base, Proposals as to, *July 2*, 1401, 1402.

Yoxall, Mr. J. H. [Nottingham, W.]
Education (England and Wales) Bill, *Com.*, *June 26*, 860, 861 ; *July 3*, 1693, 1694.
Oxfordshire Pupil Teachers' Centre, Reason for Closing, *June 26*, 755.

Zanzibar
Slavery, *see* Africa East.